

Inside

HARLEY RACE: "IT WOULD BE A
DANGEROUS MISTAKE
TO WRITE ME OFF"

VICTORY
SPORTS
SERIES

January 1982

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New
NWA Champ
Ric Flair:
WHICH WAY
WILL HE
TAKE THE TITLE?

**WWF Battle Royal Scandal:
HOW FUJI AND SAITO
STOLE \$10,000**

The New House Of Humperdink:
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when I planned to retire before

this is the business that made it possible

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"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that

business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

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fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

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period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

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INSIDE

Wrestling

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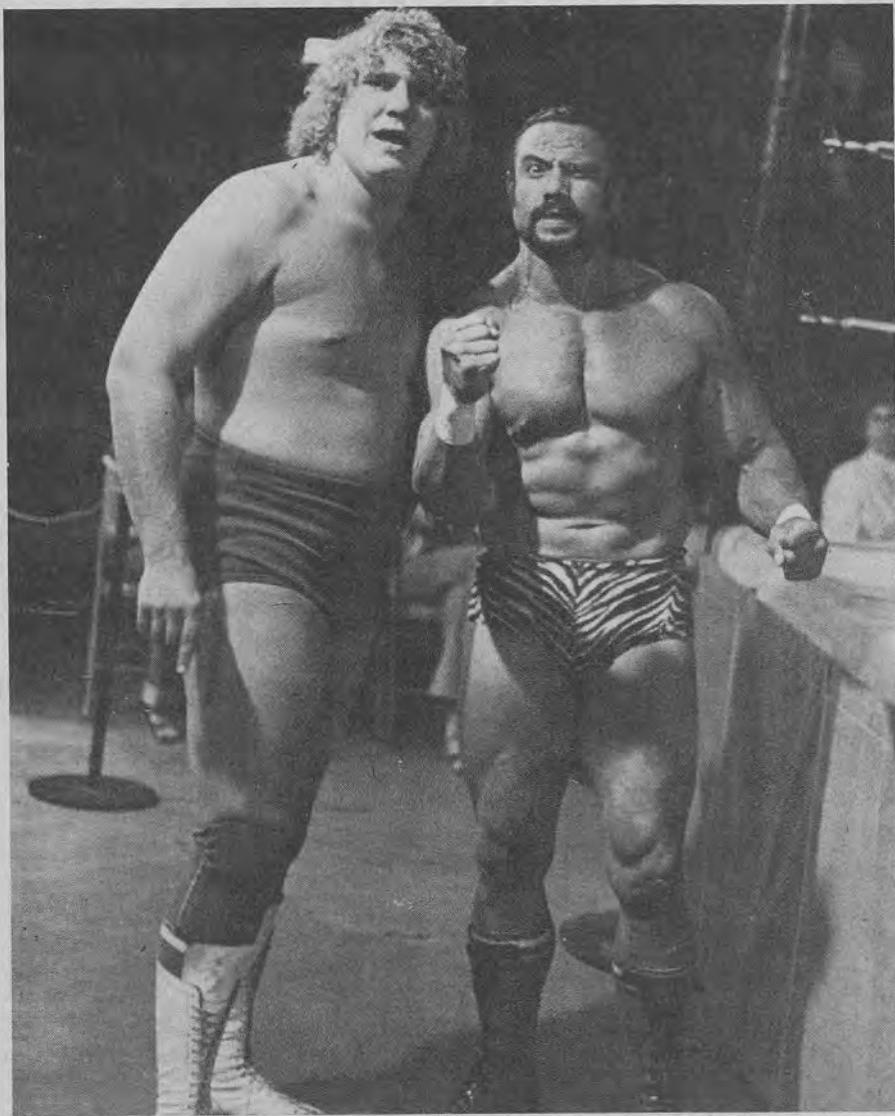
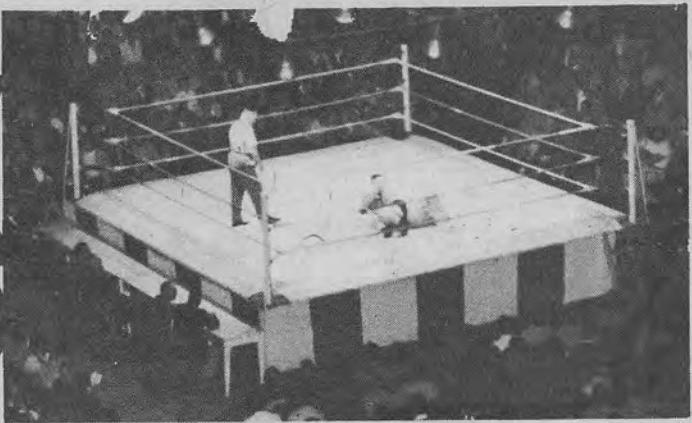
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SINCERELY YOURS

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Georgia tag team champions Terry Gordy and Jimmy Snuka should not be allowed to get away with their sadistic tactics, writes Krista Anne Smith.

THE NEXT CHAMP

Greg Valentine has returned to the WWF, and I'm very happy. In Greg's last stay in the WWF, he broke the legs of several top WWF stars, including Chief Jay Strongbow. I laughed for days

when Strongbow was laid up in the hospital.

And in Madison Square Garden, Greg truly proved his ability by out-maneuvering Bob Backlund and then trapping him in a figure-four, only to have the

time limit expire. Backlund was lucky then, but he won't be lucky this time! Once Greg gets a title shot, we'll have another WWF champion. Men like Greg are needed to rid the sport of these fools who call themselves scientific wrestlers. I'm referring to men like Backlund, Tony Garea, and Pedro Morales. These are the men who poison pro wrestling.

There are many great contenders in the WWF, but never has there been one like Greg Valentine. He has a very powerful elbowsmash and is a master of the figure-four leglock. It will take a little while, but Valentine will defeat Backlund and become the champion of the WWF.

MIKE FIORI
Endicott, NY

SICKENING

You know, I am really sick of Terry Gordy and his accomplice, Superfly Snuka. They are trying to hurt everyone they wrestle. The really bad thing about this is they are getting away with it!

I really love Georgia Championship Wrestling and I hate seeing all these innocent guys getting hurt. What I really want to see is Ted DiBiase and Tommy "Wildfire" Rich beat those guys without getting hurt.

KRISTA ANNE SMITH
Lancaster, OH
(Continued on page 50)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

They have descended on the Mid-Atlantic like marauding hordes bent only on destruction. From all points of the compass they have converged here. Never before has an area seen such an influx of savage maniacs. Within one calendar month, Killer Khan, Stan Hansen, Super Destroyer, Masked Grappler, and Sgt. Slaughter all signed exclusive contracts to wrestle in this territory.

Fans have been overwhelmed by the uncontrollable savagery in recent Mid-Atlantic matches. Injuries to fan favorites like Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood have made matters even worse. It has been rumored for many months that a group of rulebreakers would converge on one area and try and take it over. Is this what is happening here?

"There is no conspiracy," said Sgt. Slaughter, currently the holder of the prestigious U.S. championship. "Wrestlers here are out of shape and should be drummed out of wrestling. I am here to instill some needed discipline. Killer Khan, Stan Hansen, and the others--all fine lieutenants--are helping me drill some obedience into the Aunt Fannys we got down here, men like Paula Jones and Jacqueline Roberts. But I don't like that word 'conspiracy.' That's anti-American."

Still, others have their doubts that it's just a brutal coincidence that many of the sport's most vicious men are in the Mid-Atlantic at the same time. "I don't know if it's planned or not," said Rick Steamboat. "But it sure is strange. I tell you, it's hard to keep your head above water now. There are just too many tough matches. I'm getting worn down to a frazzle. I don't know how much longer me and Paul Jones, Jake Roberts, and Jay Youngblood can hold out. Geez, we could really use Ric Flair back here full-time."

Conspiracy or coincidence? Wrestling's future hangs in the balance.

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SCENIC NEW JERSEY. For the most part, a major contradiction in terms.

All right, all right, I can see dozens of you heading for your pens right now, all set to castigate me for my criticism of the Garden State. Well, don't bother. I'm the first to admit that Jersey has provided the world with some fine and admirable things.

Bruce Springsteen, for instance, and Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes. Come to think of it, Asbury Park itself, though far from scenic, is a pretty good way to blow off a summer weekend.

Square Garden, lies a sports complex so massive in scope it includes a beautiful race track, a tremendous football stadium, and the latest addition: the Brendan Byrne Arena, a plush, modern indoor auditorium which seats well over 20,000 people. It's the New Jersey Meadowlands, and it was recently the scene of one of the most bittersweet moments in wrestling history.

The sweet was that professional wrestling had made its debut here boasting a full schedule of matches that included two championship title challenges.



There is sadness in Bruno Sammartino's eyes as his arm is raised victoriously for the last time in the United States. The conclusion of the Living Legend's brilliant career also marked the start of wrestling at the beautiful new Brendan Byrne Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Sinatra is from Jersey, which is Hoboken's only valid claim to fame. My mother is from Jersey, too, and I only mention it here because she wanted so much to see herself in print.

As far as I'm concerned, though, New Jersey is only a smelly necessity to have to drive through on the way to Virginia from my native Long Island. I mean, they don't even have their own baseball club, and they had to steal the Giants away from New York to put themselves on the map as far as football goes.

But just north of the refineries, a few minutes west of Madison

Garden, lies a sports complex so massive in scope it includes a beautiful race track, a tremendous football stadium, and the latest addition: the Brendan Byrne Arena, a plush, modern indoor auditorium which seats well over 20,000 people. It's the New Jersey Meadowlands, and it was recently the scene of one of the most bittersweet moments in wrestling history.

The bitter was that along with this debut came a farewell: a farewell to Bruno Sammartino after 22 years in professional wrestling.

Another bitter was attempting to find the Meadowlands with some dubious help from Managing Editor Bill Apter.

Let me put it this way: Apter lives in an obscure part of sub-metropolitan New York City. Maybe not obscure to him and his roommate, but as far as the rest of Western civilization is concerned: obscure.

So it was set: we were to drive to
(Continued on page 52)



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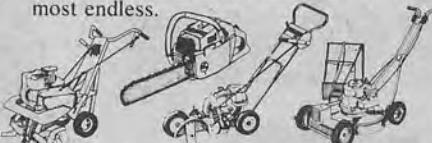
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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks

I NEVER HAD as much fun ripping up three pieces of paper in my life. Thank you, Mr. Wrestling II.

I already had a sizzling column written, condemning Mr. Wrestling II's apparent switch to rulebreaking. It was one of the hardest stories I've ever had to write, and I don't mind having wasted my time one bit.

Mr. Wrestling II is not now a rulebreaker, nor will he ever become one. He is still a paragon of probity, someone for all to look up to, be they fans or fellow wrestlers. His recent mood had me—and many others—convinced that he was shedding all decency for the tangible rewards that only rulebreakers can enjoy. For doubting you, II, I apologize.

I've seen many people turn bad to reach greedy goals. Men like Kevin Sullivan, Larry Zbyszko, Jimmy Snuka, and even Tommy Rich for a short while all turned their backs on their fans and friends when they saw greener (as in dollar bills) pastures. Mr. Wrestling II cannot be categorized with any of those men, however. While the above mentioned are all young wrestlers whose careers are still in the formative stages, II is a mature man, whose class and style is well-established. Whose dedication and loyalty have never been in question.

There were many questions raised, however, during the course of the "Most Popular Wrestler" contest in Georgia when II came before the public campaigning for votes that he felt he deserved. That just wasn't II's style. He has always been a man who has received praise, but was never one to

(Continued on page 54)

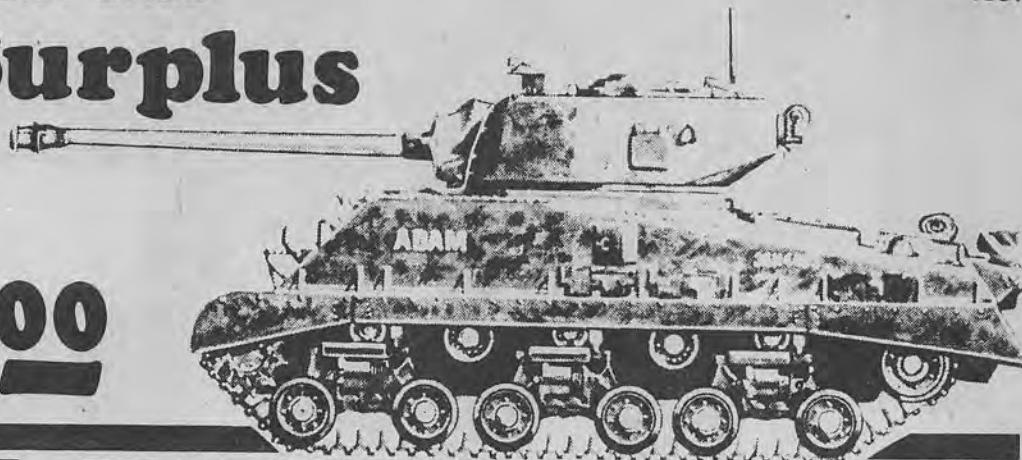
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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

IT SEEMS LIKE every few months I'm writing a column congratulating Bruno Sammartino for deciding to retire. I guess my hope is that one time he'll really mean it.

Well, we can all hope wrestling's laughable legend will no longer embarrass the sport by participating in it. It got to the point where even he couldn't ignore the clumsiness, stupidity, and obvious referee favoritism that marked his latest matches. The man moved around the ring like a beached whale with gas. It was pathetic to watch this once mediocre athlete become truly terrible.

We shall be spared the sight of Sammartino walking into arenas as idiot fans cheer wildly. For this, Sammartino deserves our heartfelt thanks. The human race can ill afford to have so many people behaving so stupidly. Sammartino fooled too many of the people too many times. Hearing fans cheer Sammartino had to make any intelligent fan be ashamed for the sport.

Perhaps with his squat body no longer lumbering in front of us, we will be able to forget his ignominious era. It's a crime that he wore the WWF belt when other great wrestlers never had the chance. Time and again, Sammartino joined with corrupt referees and cynical commissioners to protect the belt in match after match. For a

combined total of more than a decade, his two title reigns were a blot wrestling can never eradicate. In the history books, his championship years will be known as "The Era of Shame."

Even more despicable than his theft of the title belt is Sammartino's sanctimonious image. One of the most

(Continued on page 56)



A fine sportsman, that Bruno Sammartino. Here he takes a swing at Captain Lou Albano, an unsuspecting innocent bystander.

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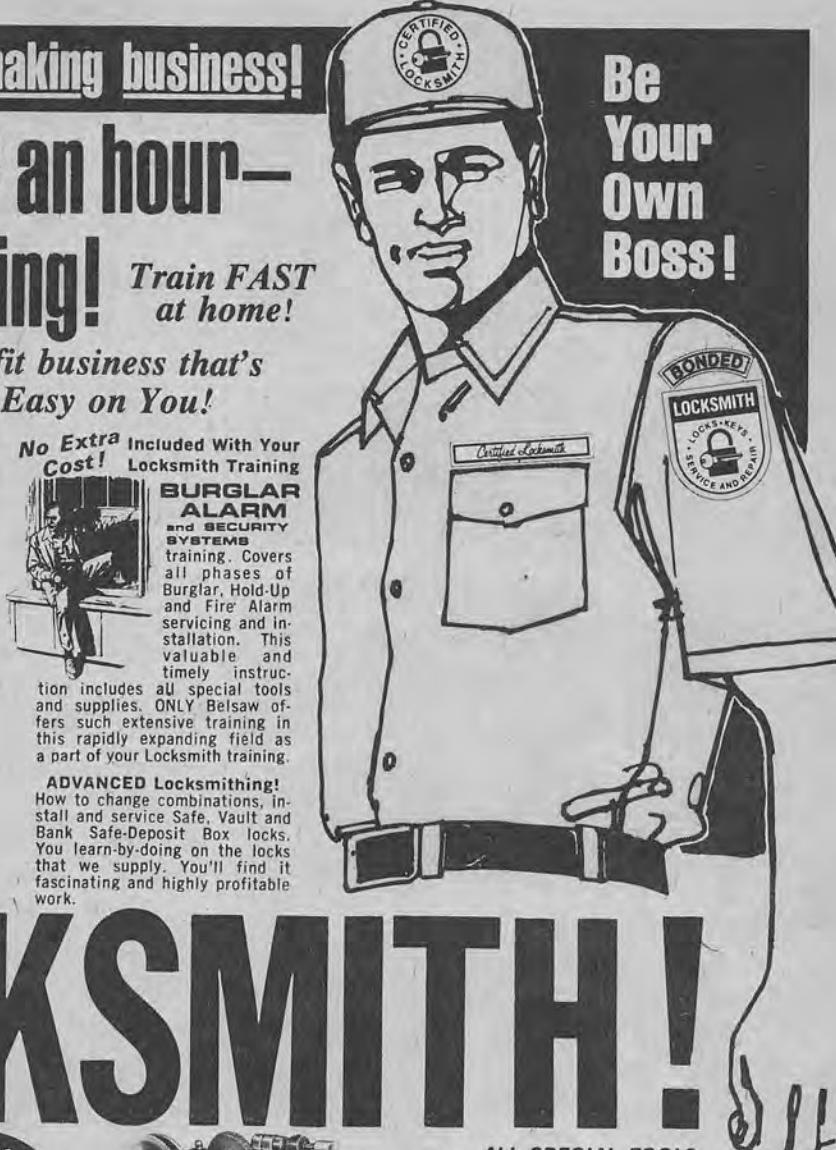
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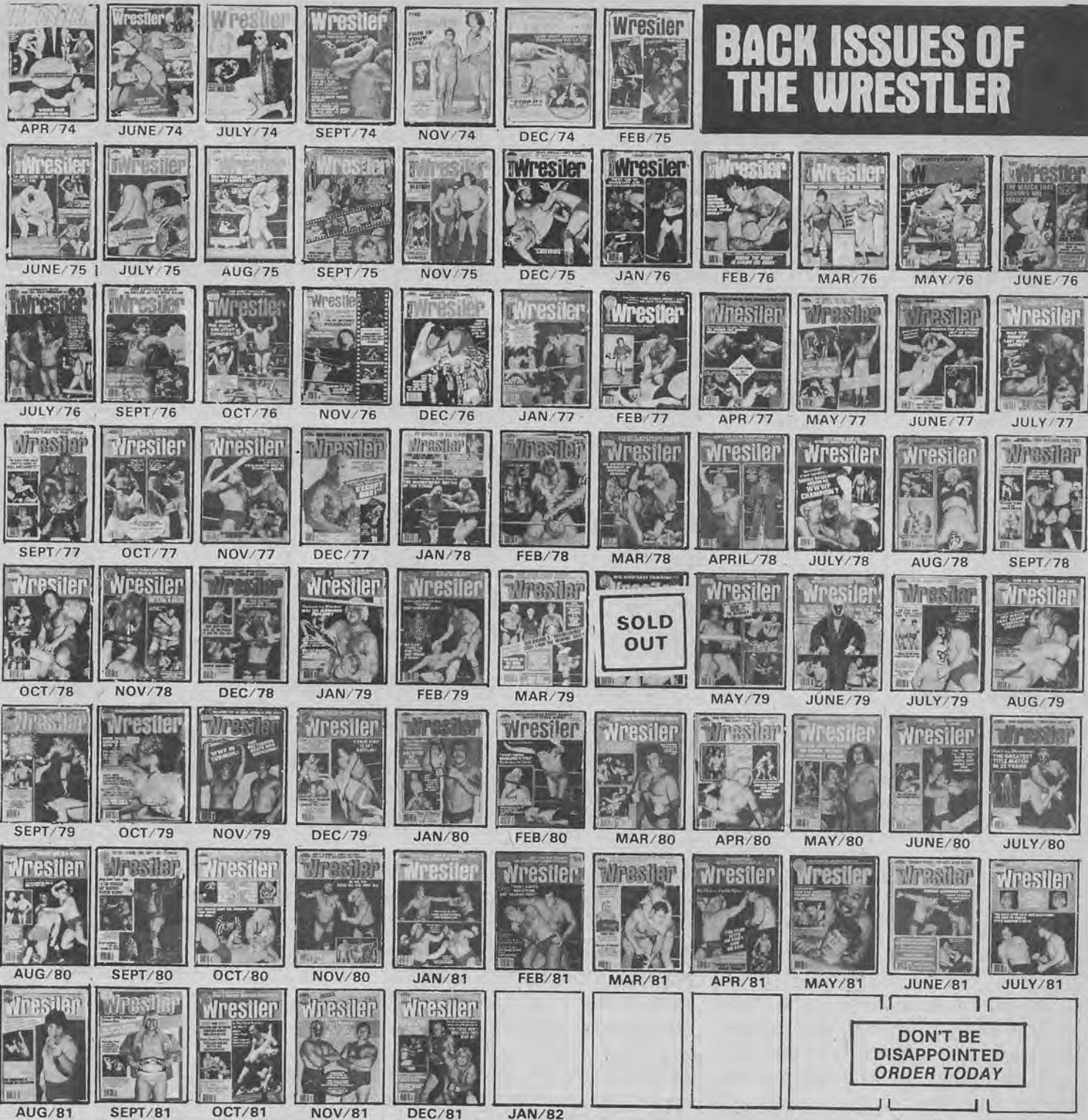
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THE

INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

The perfect wrestler is currently being groomed in Moscow and will be unleashed in America within the next six months!

While the USSR may have some of the best hockey players, gymnasts, and weightlifters in the world, rarely, if ever, does their government allow them to participate in professional sports. Wrestling, however, is an exception to the rule. We have been "blessed" from the land of caviar and vodka with such wrestling superstars as Ivan Koloff, Alexis Smirnoff, and Nikolai Volkoff, all of whom have found championship success throughout the three major alliances. Well, don't look now, but soon to appear in the arena in your area is the most carefully prepared, well-tuned, perfect wrestler of them all. Let the Grand Wizard tell you his grizzly tale.

"In Russia," the Wiz begins, "they test children at an early age and determine what field or occupation they will be best suited for. This is why they have the best scientists and the best athletes. They are trained from the age of five or six. Through some of my dear friends in Moscow, I heard several years ago of a young boy who broke every score on record in these tests. And his specialization



The Grand Wizard is very excited about his latest discovery: a Russian with incredible strength and speed, who has been groomed by the Soviet government from an early age to be a champion wrestler.

was athletics. They have worked with him for the past 15 years with one goal in mind: to create and prepare the finest wrestling machine in history. And he's ready. I know; I just came back from seeing him with my own eyes. And need I add: he will be wrestling for me."

Who is this wrestling machine? And is he as "perfect" as the Wiz insists? In an effort to learn more about him, we contacted our source in Moscow, Vladimir Zhabutkin.

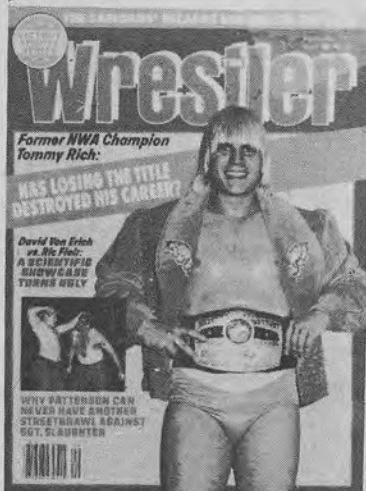
"Yes, I've heard a lot about a secret project they've had under wraps for quite a while," he said. "The wrestler is

supposed to be unbelievable. Tall, strong, even stronger than Koloff, and quick as a Siberian streamlined sled. No weaknesses. But they won't reveal his name and they won't let anyone see him in action. I wouldn't be surprised if the government is behind it all. They can't stand the fact that the champions of the three major alliances are all Americans."

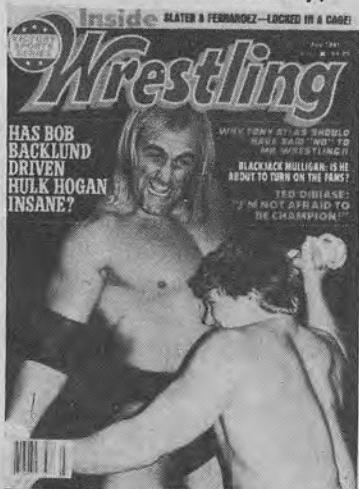
So all we can do is wait with baited breath and anticipate the American debut of this mystery grappler. Knowing the Wiz, the guy will be good, real good. He'll make a lot of money and he

(Continued on page 58)

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NAMES MAKI

All wrestling "privates" beware: SGT. SLAUGHTER has the United States heavyweight title belt around his waist. The big sergeant, who took the title in a wild one-night tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina, vows to make "all the buck privates suffer for all the years of aggravation they caused me." His list includes PAUL JONES, JAY YOUNGBLOOD, JAKE ROBERTS, and RICK STEAMBOAT.

While we've just mentioned Steamboat, most of you will be glad to know that Rick has won the Mid-Atlantic title from IVAN KOLOFF . . . AWA fans are awaiting the showdown between KEN PATERA and HULK HOGAN. The two have vowed total destruction of each other (see "One on One," page 32) . . . THE GREAT MEPHISTO, manager of TOR KAMATA and RAY STEVENS, nixed a match that would have pit his team against Georgia tag team kings, TERRY GORDY and JIMMY SNUKA.



SGT. SLAUGHTER



RIC FLAIR

Rumors persist that Mephisto may be trying to buy the contract of Gordy and Snuka. That would net him Georgia's two most vicious teams.

The North American tag team title is vacant since the NWA stripped The Assassins of the honor. A tournament is being held in Florida to find new champions . . . DORY FUNK JR. has left Florida and is raising havoc in Japan . . . Former NWA champion HARLEY RACE wrestled current champion RIC FLAIR to a blistering one-hour draw in St. Louis' Checkerdom . . . THE MOONDOGS, Rex, King, and Spot, are wrestling in South Africa.

In what was one of the most scientific and cleverly fought battles in years, JACK BRISCO has lifted the Missouri state title from the waist of TED DiBIASE.

The two, who share very similar styles, embraced after their classic encounter . . . By the way, Jack's brother, JERRY BRISCO, is still holding tight to the NWA Jr. Heavyweight championship. It would be great to see Jerry square off against his WWF counterpart TATSUJI FUJINAMI in a scientific match.

For some strange reason, ERNIE LADD wrestled only once



ERNIE LADD



JERRY & JACK BRISCO

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



KABUKI

in Florida and then left the state very quickly. Ladd, who has been managing THE SAMOANS in Louisiana, may have been scouting the area to bring his team there. By the way, The Samoans are still under contract to CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO, who has leased them out to Ladd.

KILLER KHAN is negotiating with Mid-Atlantic promoters as is "Lariat" expert STAN HANSEN . . . GART HART is bringing KABUKI to Georgia . . . ANDRE THE GIANT has returned to the U.S. after a successful stint in Japan . . . PEDRO MORALES is in special training, working on new maneuvers he hopes will land him a victory over Intercontinental champion MAGNIFICENT MURACO.

PAT PATTERSON has recovered from the head and neck injuries he suffered when KING KONG MOSCA smashed a water pitcher over his head. Patterson can't wait to get his hands on, as he

puts it, the "ugly gorilla who tried to break my head" . . . WAHOO McDANIEL has not ended his long feud with RODDY PIPER by a long shot. Piper, who along with ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER injured Wahoo so he could not defend the U.S. title (and was thus stripped of the belt), is trying to get a handicap match against both of them. "I want to see them both bathing in their own blood at the same time," says the hot tempered Wahoo.

PAT PATTERSON is making news again. This time it's in the AWA. Pat ventured to San Francisco to take on champion



BOBBY EATON



ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

NICK BOCKWINKEL. It was a titanic match, but Nick retained his title . . . SUPER DESTROYER is complaining that ANDRE THE GIANT once again tried to break his left foot by repeatedly stomping on it during their Mississippi bout. "We'll sue!" says FRANK DUSEK, the masked man's manager. "He's out to cripple my man while my man is just trying to scientifically grapple and beat that behemoth."

BLACKJACK MULLIGAN JR. and SR. are at war with the team of BOBBY EATON and WAYNE FARRIS, managed by JIMMY HOLIDAY. "I have never seen two more aggressive youngsters in my life," the elder Mulligan confesses. "They're out to cripple their opponents any way they can. But I have enough confidence in my son and myself to feel we will beat them."

That's all for now. See you at the matches. □

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than 25 years. All of these extremely rare magazines are from the personal collection of Stanley Weston, owner of the world's largest collection of wrestling memorabilia. This is indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity for the true collector to finally own these highly treasured but until now elusive editions. Obviously, the supplies of these issues is very limited, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. It is for that reason we urge you to list substitute choices when you order. This will avoid time wasted writing back and forth should a particular issue be sold out. The prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the amount of available copies. For fastest service, payment should be made by money order or certified check. While cash will be accepted, we cannot assume responsibility when it is sent through the mails. All sales are final and no exchanges will be made.

BOXING & WRESTLING

After five issues, WRESTLING magazine changed its name to BOXING & WRESTLING. Continuing its high standard in wrestling, the addition of boxing stories made it one of the most popular sports magazines of the '50s. Some of the back issues listed in this ad can be obtained now by the general public for the first time in more than 25 years. As you would expect, supplies are very, very limited.

DECEMBER 1951 Boxing—Maxim Beats Sailor Murphy, Gavilan Beats Billy Graham, Jim Corbett, Knockout Artists, Best Prospects, New Champion Randy Turpin, Upsets, Jersey Joe Walcott, Ratings, Marciano Challenges Walcott, Sandy Saddler (Life Story), Tex Rickard, Famous Fights of the Past, Fights of the Month
Wrestling—Verne Gagne, Ratings, TV Announcer Dennis James, Sandor Szabo, Matches of the Month, Pet Peeve, Sammy Berg, Mae Weston \$25

JANUARY 1952 Boxing—Pep vs. Saddler, Gans vs. Kid Lavigne, Robinson vs. Turpin, Mickey Walker, Tricksters, Tony Janiro, Barney Ross's Record, Tex Rickard, Roland LaStarza, Leonard vs. Kilbane, Rocky Marciano, Ratings, Knockouts
Wrestling—Yvon Robert, Wrestling Whirl, Sky Hi Lee, Matches of the Month, Pacific Coast Championship, George Hackenschmidt, Indian Wrestlers, Ruffy Silverstein, Ratings, Londos vs. Shikai \$25

FEBRUARY 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Trouble with Boxing, Young Prospects, Tony Canzoneri, Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Graziano, Unusual Incidents, Predictions for 1952, Willie Lewis vs. Sailor Burke, Ratings (Marciano Fighter of Month), Tex Rickard Story
Wrestling—Dirty Duseks, Cora Combs, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, The Original Terrible Turk, How to Improve Wrestling, Ratings \$25

JUNE 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Gil Turner, Max Schmeling, Jack Johnson, Ratings, Stillman's Gym, Chico Vejar, Flyweights and Bantamweights, Tex Rickard Story, Paddy DeMarco, Max Baer's Record
Wrestling—Lord Carlton, Ratings, Mars Bennett, Human Sides, Tony Lanza, Wrestling Whirl, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, Matches of Month, San Francisco Promoter Joe Malcewicz \$25

AUGUST 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Paddy Young, Sammy Mandell, Trainer Doc Bagler, Jack Dempsey, Keeny Teran and Gil Gadill, Tex Rickard Story, Lew Tandler, TV From Miami, From Knockdown to Victory, Ratings
Wrestling—Dirty Dick Raines, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, How Girl Wrestlers Keep Fit, Ratings, Adrian Baillargeon, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, Mighty Atlas \$25

SEPTEMBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Fighting Italians, George Araujo, Pancho Villa, Trainer Charlie Goldman, Willie Troy, Ratings, Boxing Confidential, Gene Tunney, Jackie Fields
Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Lou Thesz's Record, Ratings, Matches of Month, Tim Geohagen, William Muldown, Wrestling Whirl \$25

OCTOBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights (Walcott vs. Charles Carter loses to Salas, etc.), Lauro Salas, Stanley Ketchel, Irish Champions, Chuck Davey, Max Schmeling, Ratings, Joe Miceli, Strange Experiences, Willie Pep tells about his loss to Sandy Saddler, Boxing Medicine Man Dr. Nardiello
Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Their Hardest Battles, Matches of Month, Ray Gunkel, Tough Turks, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Record of Verne Gagne \$25

MAY 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights in Review (Danny Nardico upsets Jake LaMotta, Rocky Castellan beats Tiger Jones), Kid Gavilan kayoed Chuck Davey to retain crown, Roland LaStarza tops Rex Layne, The

Dundee Brothers, Baltimore's Great Fighters, Saga of John Morrissey, Tommy Loughran, Ratings, Middleweight Muddle, Charlie White
Wrestling—Fred Curry, Elvira Snodgrass, Matches of Month, Great Togo, Ruffy Silverstein, Trading Holds, Record of Buddy Rogers, Ratings, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs \$30

DECEMBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Matches of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ezzard Charles writes about Marciano, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Tony DeMarco, Jimmy Braddock, Maxie Rosenblom's Life, Paul Andrews, Tony Galento vs. Lou Nova, Benny Leonard, Quiz, Dempsey vs. Fred Fulton, Quiz
Wrestling—Bob Orton, Matches of Month, Cowboy Carlson, Mars Bennett, California Champs, Al Costello, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

FEBRUARY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Nino Valdez Says "I'll Beat Marciano," Billy Petrolle's Life, Carmen Basilio Challenges Johnny Saxton, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Lou Stillman, Jim Corbett vs. Joe Choynski, Jack Delany, Jack Johnson Compared to Modern Fighters, Why Black Fighters Are Tops, Quiz, Ratings, Jimmy McLarnin
Wrestling—Billy Varga, Ratings, Violet Vianni, Verne Gagne, Speaks Out, Matches of Month, Sonny Myers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, How To Start A Fan Club \$25

MARCH 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Kid Gavilan, Cisco Andrade, Eugene Criqui, Ratings, Writer Dan Parker, Best Heavyweight Of All, Charley Powell, Youg Griffi, Kid McCoy vs. Tom Sharkey, Willie Ritchie, Quiz, Pedro Montanez
Wrestling—Gorgeous George, Matches of Month, Jack Witzig, Ike Eakins, Texas Tough Guys, Little Black Dynamite, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs \$25

APRIL 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Archie Moore Blasts Marciano, Robert Cohen, Joe Choynski's Life, Strike By Managers' Guild, "Boardwalk" Billy Smith, Ad Wolgast vs. Joe Rivers, Fake Fights, St. Nicks Arena, TV Fights of 1954, Paul Berlenbach, Quiz, Ratings \$25

MAY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Jimmy Carter, Trainer Whitey Bimstein's Secrets, Pancho Villa's Life, Frankie Ryll, Ray Robinson's Comeback, Les Darcy, Charley Norkus, Max Baer Kayoes Max Schmeling, Bob Fitzsimmons, Quiz, Ratings, Barney Ross
Wrestling—Primo Carnera, Roy McClarity, Matches of Month, Southwest Champs, Great Scott, Killer Kowalski Strength Secrets, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up of Buddy Rogers \$20

JUNE 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Eduardo Llausé, Tony Canzoneri's Life, Tiger Jones and Bobby Jones, How Marciano Is Managed, Lou Brouillard's Life, Bob Baker, Matchmaker Teddy Brenner, Ten Deadliest Punches, Tommy Ryan vs. Sandow, Ruby Goldstein, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Yukon Eric, Pacific Coast Powerhouses, Billy Goelz, Wrestling Whirl, Manuel Cortez, Matches of Month, Bob Geigel, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Billy Varga \$25

JULY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Rocky Marciano Crushes Don Cockell, Fights of Month, Chico Vejar, Tony Canzoneri's Life (conclusion), Carmen Basilio describes his war with Tony DeMarco, Fight Nite At St. Nicks, Jimmy Soo, Fantasy Fight with Joe Walcott, Ludwig Lightburn, Benny Leonard vs. Ever Hammer, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Tiger Joe Marsh, Matches of Month, Timmy Geohagen, TV Stars, Yukon Eric Tells How To Build

Muscles, Was Henri DeGlane a Nazi? Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Frankie Talaber \$25

AUGUST 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Floyd Patterson, Tony DeMarco, Boxing's Mouthpiece, Mickey Walker, Joe Rowan, Fritzie Zivic batters Henry Armstrong, Fighting Irish, Joey Lopes, Sam Langford vs. Stanley Ketchel, Quiz, Luis Firpo, Ratings

Wrestling—Legs Langevin, Yukon Eric, Matches of Month, Promoter Eddie Quinn, Most Dangerous Holds, Joe Cassius, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up Of Leo Nomellini \$25

SEPTEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Castellan, Promoter Jim Norris, Fight Afternoon, Rudy Garcia, Abe Attell, Billy Graham Quits, Terry McGovern vs. Pedler Palmer, Pat McMurtry, Al Singer, Willie Jackson, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Leo Nomelline, Do Black Wrestlers Get Fair Shake? Matches of Month, Crazy Kalmikoffs, Hans Schnabel, Wrestling Whirl, Al & Tiny Mills, Gossip, Wrestling Stinks! Full Color Pin Up of Big Bill Miller \$25

OCTOBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, The Real Marciano, Frankie Carbo, Carmen Basilio, John L. Sullivan vs. Charley Mitchell, Carmelo Costa, Jack Dempsey (Part 1), Paddy Young, Archie Moore, Joe Benjamin, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Hans Herman, Matches of Month, Strangler Lewis, One World's Title! Sky Hi Lee, Wrestling Whirl, Kamikaze Kinji, Hans Schmidt, Full Color Pin Up of Lord Blears \$25

NOVEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Marciano Kayoes Archie Moore, Fights of Month, Willie Pastrano, What Made Dempsey A Killer? 'Bud' Smith, Yama Bahama, Joe Gans vs. Rufe Turner, Strategy, Tony Puleo, Great Trainers, Ratings, Johnny Dundee, Johnny Kilbane, Quiz

Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Matches of Month, Don Arnold, Colorful Characters, Hindu Wrestlers, Chris Tolos, Malcolm Brenner, Full Color Pin Up of Pat O'Connor \$25

JANUARY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Joey Giambra upsets Bob Olson, Joe Lynch, Ray Drake, Mystery of Joe Walcott Solved, Training Camps, Jimmy Slattery, Chris Christensen, Bare Knuckle Brawl-Tom Johnson vs. Isaac Perrins, Petey Sarron, Charley White, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Why Women Wrestle, Wrestling Whirl, Bill Fletcher, Ivan Padubny, Bearded Wrestlers, Matches of Month, Art Michalek, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

FEBRUARY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Ralph Dupas, Young Otto, Willie Pep, Billy Conn, Nonpareil Dempsey vs. George LaBlanche, Joe Miceli, Boxing Lesson, I.B.C., Freddie Steele, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Pepper Gomez, June Byers vs. Babs Wingo, Matches of Month, French Angel, Karl Davis, Best Rookies, Lou Thesz, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs \$25

MARCH 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Chuck Spieser, Isaac Logart, Ratings, Luis Firpo's Life, Raton Macias, Jim Jeffries vs. Jim Corbett, Tiger Jones, Boxing Lesson, Review of 1955, Frankie Genaro, Quiz
Wrestling—Leo 'The Lion' Newman, Matches of Month, Doc Gallagher, Terrible Turk, Breast Cancer and Girl Wrestlers, Barefoot Wrestlers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Wives of Wrestlers \$25

APRIL 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Carmen Basilio, Commissioner Hefland, Pete Herman, Regaining Titles, Bobby Boyd, Ace Hudkins' Life, George Dixon vs. Solly Smith, Joe Benjamin, Louis 'Kid' Kaplan, Quiz \$25

By Stu Saks

The New House Of Humperdink: **REFURNISHED FOR TERROR**

THE SKY WAS dark with clouds promising the frightening roars and flashes of an impending thunderstorm. The sun, low in the sky as evening approached, cast an eerie glow on the Kansas City, Missouri, suburbs. Light reflected off the thunderheads, adding a further aura of mystery and foreboding to the scene before me.

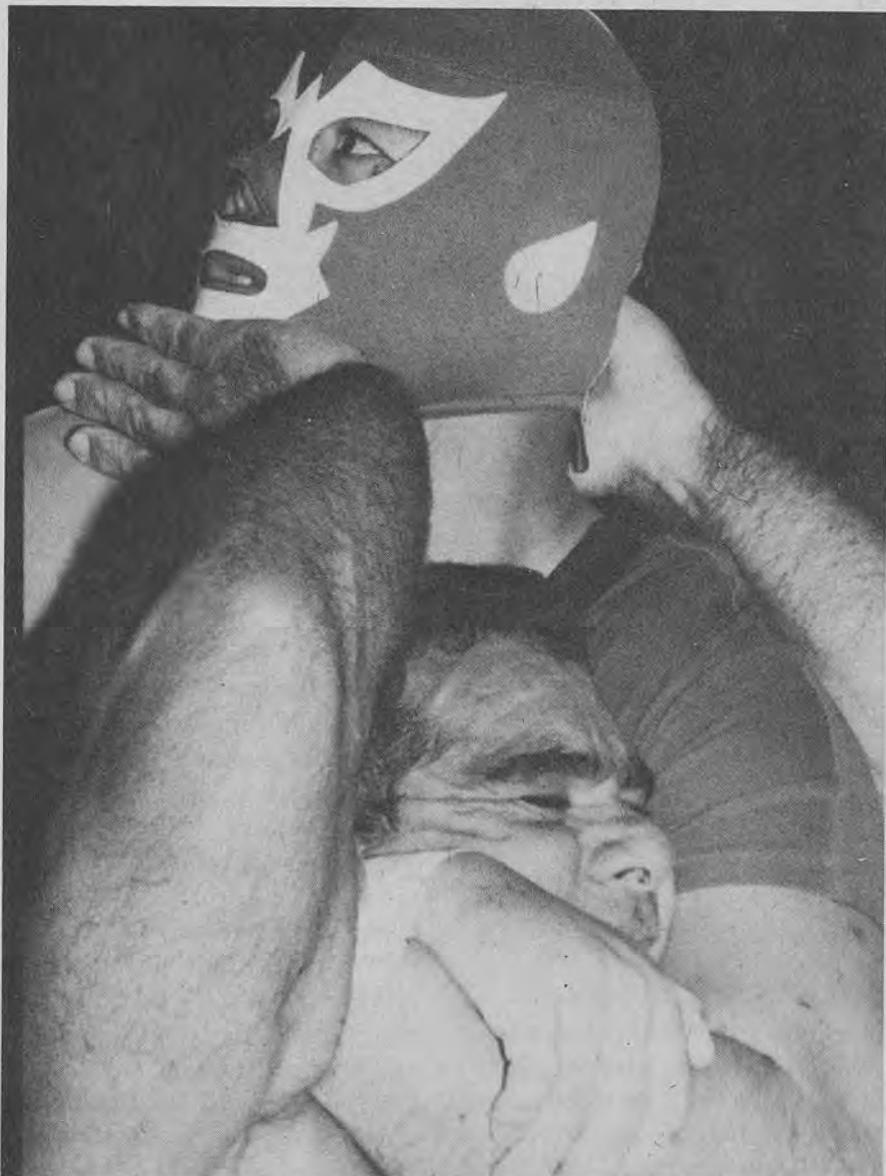
The atmosphere was perfect for the assignment I was sent on: locate and report on the new House of Humperdink.

As I drove along the murky backstreets of suburban Kansas City, I wondered how much



Standing behind Sir Oliver Humperdink (from left to right): The Monk, Mean Gene Lewis, Jim Dillon, and Ten-Gu.

The House of Humperdink has undergone hideous renovation. Not only has there been a deviously calculated relocation of the House, but many new and deadly additions have been made. Shock, treachery, and a lust for victory are their hallmarks, destruction and eradication of all opposition is their goal



Banished from the state of Florida, Sir Oliver Humperdink left the wrestling scene for a while to rebuild his House of Wrestlers. Left: Chang Chung applies a firm headlock on Omar Atlas. Above: Gene Lewis locks up Michael Hayes' arm.

that sent sharp chills down my spine.

As I walked to the rusty front gate, I heard the rumblings of a thunderstorm still many miles away, but definitely headed for where I was. The gate swung open with a weary creak, and I crept my way to that lit basement window. From somewhere in the backyard I heard a cat cry mournfully. Again, a rumble of thunder cascaded its way to my ears.

As I kneeled down to listen for sounds coming from the window, I noticed a faint flash of light from the side of the house. Freezing, I awaited another signal. None came. Returning my attention to the basement window, I realized that I could hear faint noises: grunts, groans, the sound of heavy weights being thrown about. Plus,

trouble I would have in locating Sir Oliver's most recent haven of madness. I had only clues, no actual address, and had been driving around for nearly three hours. Had my trip been in vain, or . . . ?

Suddenly I saw it. It was an enormous mansion, and I swear, it had to be at least 100 years old. It reminded me most of the house on the *Addams Family* TV show. I half expected to see Uncle Fester out

front trying to get a moon tan.

Knowing Humperdink's twisted mind, I surmised, this is the kind of place he would choose for plotting his evil. All the windows were dark, save for a lone shaft of light barely escaping from a partially open basement window.

I parked my car and stepped out of it slowly. The streetlight directly in front of the mansion was out, and incident light from down the block created a silhouette effect



Above: The referee cannot control the action when everybody gets into the ring. The only person under control seems to be Oliver himself, who is tangled in the ropes. Below left: Humperdink and The Monk double-team Hayes outside the ring. Below right: Jim Dillon slams his fist into Terry Gibbs' jaw.



blackness which was in fact a piece of cloth extending upward into . . . into . . . a face so bizarre and frighteningly hideous, so starkly white as the cloth was inky black, that I was unable even to scream. All I could do was stare and swallow.

"Come," was all the behemoth said. He motioned for me to follow. I was in no position to disagree.

Upon further examination, I noticed that there was an unnerving familiarity to this giant's face. Of course! Now I know where! Mr. Kabuki!

But it wasn't him, it was

an occasional tirade by a voice too faint to be recognized, but which could only be that of Sir Oliver Humperdink.

As I turned away from the window to stand up, my eyes saw not the malevolent landscape of this mansion's front yard, but instead met pure blackness . . .

someone else with a face very similar to his. Whoever he was, he led me into the house, down two flights of stairs, through a lengthy corridor, and into one of the best equipped wrestling training rooms I've ever seen in my life.

In one corner, sitting upon a very large, very ornate chair . . . no, more like a throne . . . was Sir Oliver Humperdink.

"Welcome to my new home," he sneered with egotistical pomposity. "I see that you've already met Ten-Gu."

So that's who he was. I had heard rumors of a Kabuki-faced Japanese superstar, but I thought that they were all just that: rumors. I never dreamed . . .

"Jim, Gene, Monk, Chang!"

Sir Oliver barked his roll call and snapped his fingers. Immediately, four enormously muscular brutes joined rank with Ten-Gu. I simply watched in awe of the power and control that Humperdink was able to exercise over these men.

"Allow me to introduce the new
(Continued on page 64)

INSIDE WRESTLING

66

CAPSULE PROFILE

ONE OF THE most accomplished junior heavyweight wrestlers in the sport's history ("My record speaks for itself") . . . An emigrant from Great Britain, he now wrestles mainly in the United States ("I like to stay where there is the best competition") . . . Though he's respected by everyone, some consider him arrogant ("I don't place much importance on modesty") . . . His main complaint is that people tend to overlook the accomplishments of the junior heavyweight division ("There's a tendency to confuse size with ability") . . . Right now, his main ambition is to win back the junior heavyweight title from Jerry Brisco ("He's just borrowing it from me") . . . Once he's again champion, he wants to wrestle WWF junior heavyweight champion Tatsumi Fujinami ("The man can't duck me forever") . . . He often wrestles in the heavyweight

LES THORNTON

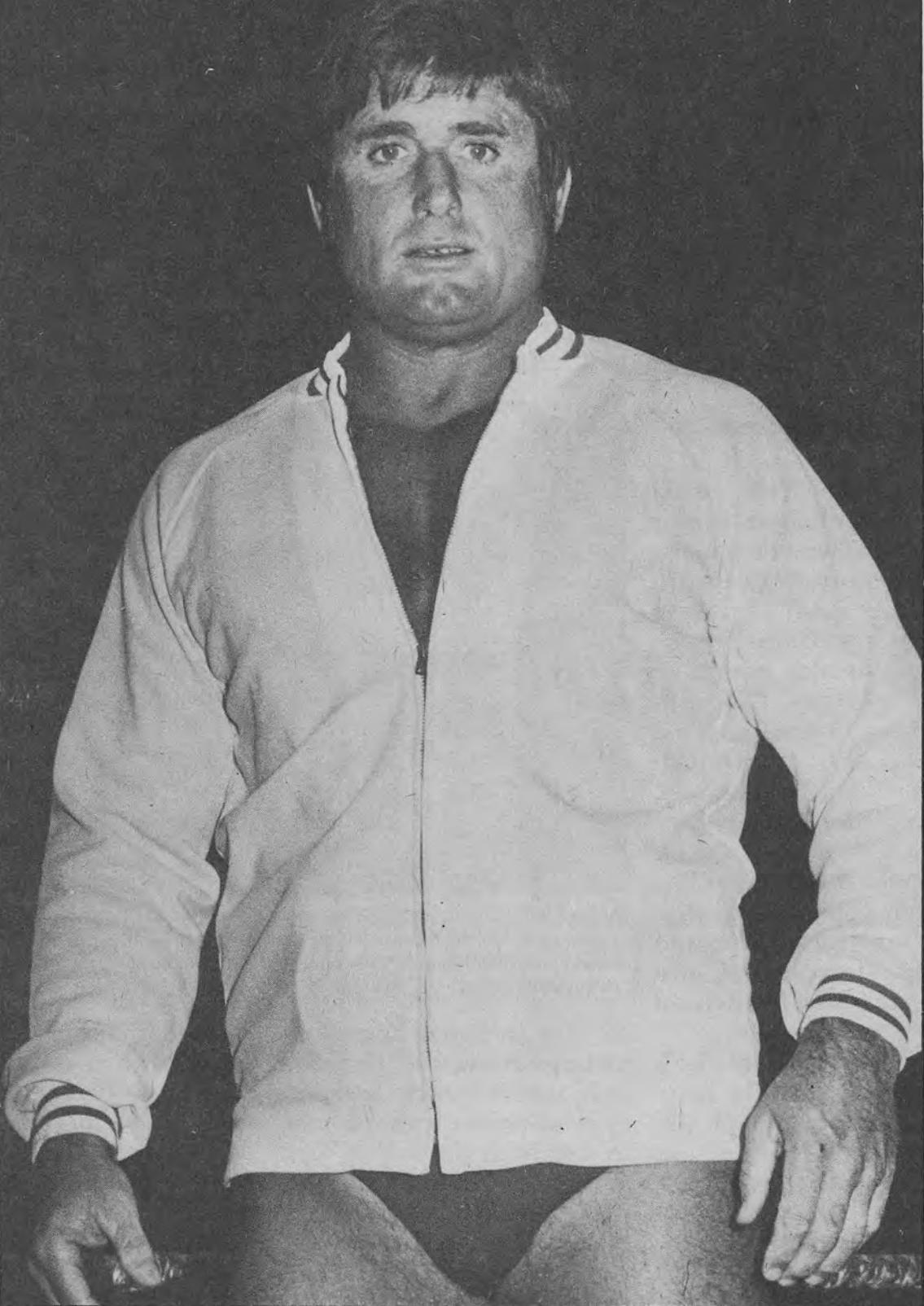


Former NWA junior heavyweight champion Les Thornton throws his opponent to the canvas. Thornton, whose immediate goal is to regain his title from Jerry Brisco, has also expressed an interest in becoming champion in the heavyweight division, where his drive and desire, he feels, can offset any size disadvantage.

division, although he prefers junior heavyweight ("Because fans take the heavyweights more seriously, it's important to establish oneself in that division") . . . He believes the junior heavyweight division is more skilled than the larger wrestlers ("We have more agility, stamina, and by and large, intelligence") . . . The respect of the fans is important, but he doesn't seek their love ("I have

enough friends without fans; I need their respect because it proves I'm good in my field") . . . He intends to retire at the peak of his abilities ("I'm not going to have people say, 'You should have seen him a few years ago.'") . . . He intends to someday be the NWA champion ("I've never really pursued that title like I should, but I will in the near future"). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP



LES THORNTON

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!



CYCLONE NEGRO

One of wrestling's most infamous wildmen currently bases his reign of mayhem in Puerto Rico. The mat star lives the good life by day and batters his opponents senseless by night. Those who hoped the warm weather of the Caribbean island would calm Negro have been sorely disappointed. "I find this place restful," he says, "and that gives me more energy for my matches!"

TERRANCE GARVIN

One of the notorious Garvin brothers, Terrance is now a ring announcer in Kansas City and parts of Iowa. He claims not to miss wrestling full-time, but friends say he's just taking a paid vacation from the mat wars. Those who know him best believe he will soon be back within the ropes, ready to once again become a top challenger.



KING CURTIS

Retired from wrestling, King Curtis is now in Hawaii. He still enjoys being recognized by fans who remember his great days as one of the world's top wrestlers. Though he won't be returning to the mat wars, fans can content themselves with the memories of his many exciting matches.

STAN STASIAK

Fans all over the world enjoy the great mat skills of Stan "The Man" Hansen. Right now, he's concentrating his attentions on the Portland, Oregon, area. His relationship with the fans has mellowed, and some even consider him a fan favorite. Still, his devastating heart punch makes him anything but a favorite to his opponents.





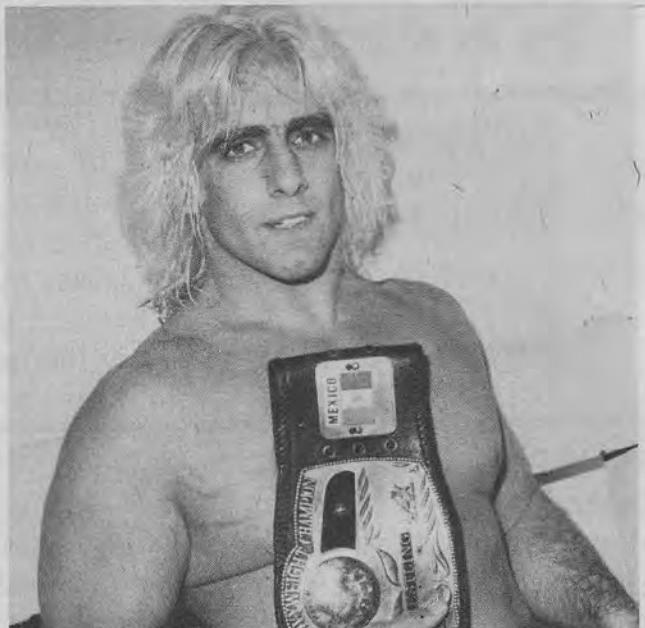
Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ: Two big stories here at the Meadowlands sports complex. The lesser story has to do with the fact that they've finally brought professional wrestling to the new arena here. It's a beautiful building, and they wanted to give me a ringside seat for the evening's card, but I nixed that idea. I'd rather sit up in the cheap seats with the rest of the fans. More atmosphere. But the other, much more important story is that Bruno Sammartino has bid *addio* to wrestling after more than two



BRUNO SAMMARTINO VS. GEORGE STEELE

decades of active involvement. I have a lot of great memories of Bruno, and I'm going to miss him. I have to give him credit, though, for getting out while he's on top. If you weren't at the Meadowlands that night, you won't believe anything I tell you about how he made mincemeat out of George "The Animal" Steele . . . so I won't. Suffice to say that the Italian Stallion did an impressive number on Steele. Suffice to say he left in style. *Addio* to you, Bruno, you'll be missed.



NWA CHAMPION RIC FLAIR

KANSAS CITY, MO: Another big story down here: Dust Rhodes is deep-sixed by none other than Ric Flair. Flair? Well, he's a liar, a cheater, a manipulator, a first-class charmer. Maybe that's why he's the new NWA champion. I knew Rhodes was having some shaky times, but I never really expected him to be ousted by Flair. Just goes to show you that nobody, not even grizzly ol' Matt, can predict what's going to happen in this crazy sport we're all devoted to. One day a man is champion and the next day . . . well, I suppose that's what it's all about when you get right down to it. It's this kind of risk and uncertainty that makes the sport what it is.

ST. LOUIS, MO: Made it across the state in time to see Jack Brisco take the Missouri title away from Ted DiBiase. Then, wouldn't you know it, Ken Patera comes along and promises to take the title away from Brisco! Talk about

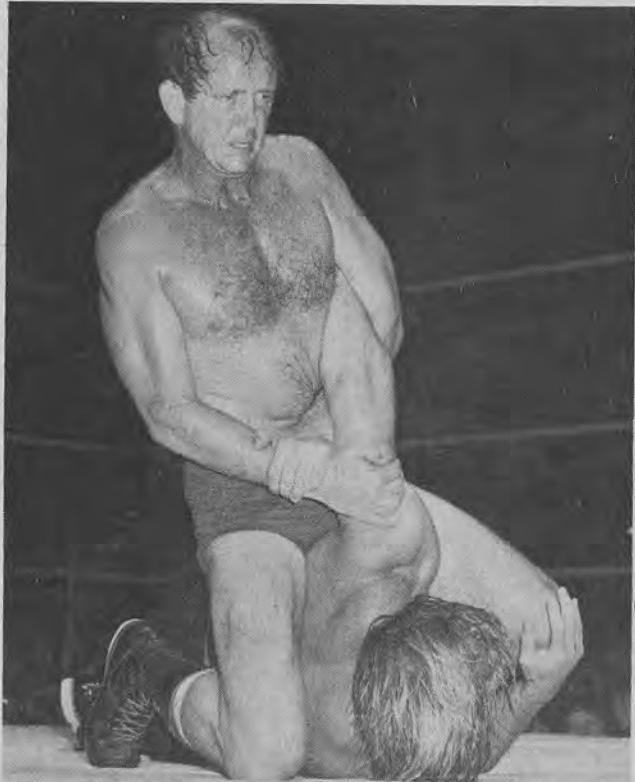
Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

uncertainty and unpredictability! Now Brisco and Patera are feuding about the title like two crazed cats clawing for a catnip ball. I never liked cats, myself. Too dull. They're always sleeping, and they never fetch your paper for you. Besides that, they make me sneeze like hell. Anyway, your guess is as good as mine about what DiBiase is doing while Brisco and Patera battle it out. Probably waiting for them to devour each other, if he's canny enough. Then he can just waltz in and take the title back from whichever guy is still standing.

ATLANTA, GA: Beastly tag team combo raising hell all around the state. It's Ray Stevens and Tor Kamata under the dastardly direction of the Great Mephisto. They're running roughshod all over the place, taking people like Michael Hayes, Mr. Wrestling II, and Tommy Rich along with them. This mysterious Mephisto from the Middle East (try saying *that* three times fast with a mouth full of marbles) seems bent on the destruction of any and all tag teams he runs across down here. Stevens and Kamata are a good pair to do his bidding, but I have a hunch that they're going to run up against your basic immovable objects: who they will be I'm not going to say right now, but let's just say that Mephisto's fire will be extinguished.



TOR KAMATA VS. ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER



DORY FUNK JR. VS. STEVE KEIRN

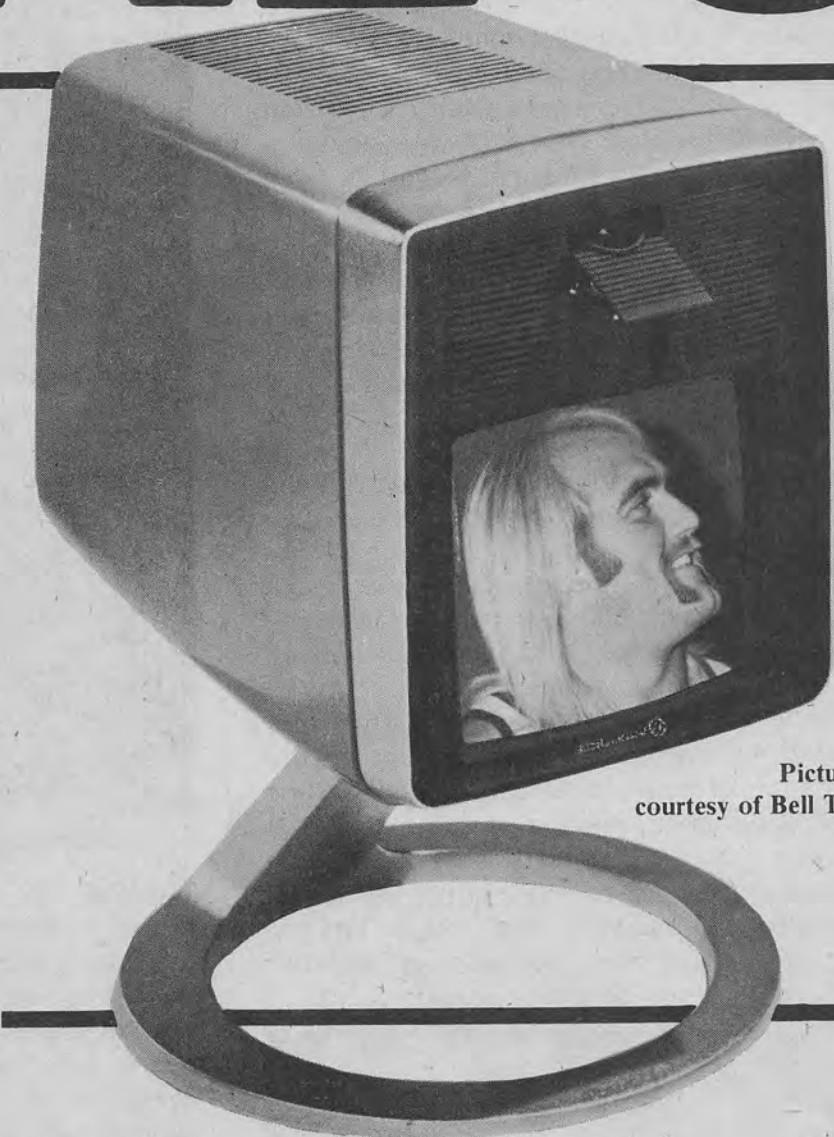
TAMPA, FL: Finally made my way to the Sunshine State. Beats the hell out of me why they call it that, it's been raining for three days since I've been here. Not only that, but I came here to see Dory Funk Jr. and it turns out that he's in Japan. What a way to wind up the month. Everyone down here is engaging in a little playful character assassination while Funk's out of the territory. They all say he's running scared, that he couldn't get the title back from Charlie Cook. Well, a quick overseas phone call later and the tale from Funk's point of view is made clear. Seems that Funk says he couldn't care less about Cook or the title. About his running off to Japan to hide from his new reputation as a washed-up has-been, Funk says that he's had these matches in Japan set up for months, and there's no way he's going to "break my commitment overseas just to shut up a bunch of idiots who don't know what they're talking about in the first place." Good show, Dory. □

ONE ON



HULK HOGAN

(They were once close friends who shared the same beliefs and goals. Hulk Hogan and Ken Patera were two of the most ruthless, intelligently vicious men in the sport of wrestling. Today, Hogan has turned on his former friends and become a fan favorite in the AWA. Patera has recently traveled to the AWA, and some believe he intends to turn Hogan back into the savage rulebreaker Patera admired. Their conversation, held over the Picturephones in two different AWA offices, was a strange combination of anger and sorrow.)



Picturephones
courtesy of Bell Telephone

KEN PATERA:

I saw your match last night.

HULK HOGAN:

I was great, wasn't I?

KP: You were disgraceful, not only to the sport but to

yourself.

HH: It breaks my heart that you didn't like me.

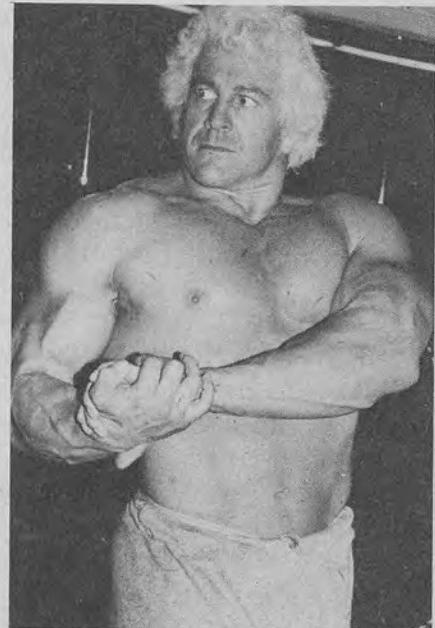
KP: I remember a time when you would have been much more disgusted than I was.

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

NONE



Simulated photos



KEN PATERA

HH: I'm still the same man I was. I wrestle the same, I care the same, I take the same risks. Just because I beat up on some of your buddies . . .

KP: They should also be your buddies.

HH: They're not worth anything, especially my friendship.

KP: I thought you were stronger than this.

HH: What's that supposed to mean?

KP: You've become an applause addict.

HH: What the hell are you talking about?

KP: You know exactly what that means; we've seen it enough. It's what happens when a man needs to hear people cheer him. He'll do anything to make them cheer him. That's what you're doing. You have no business wrestling people like Crusher

Blackwell. You should be turning Brad Rheingans into sauerbraten.

HH: I'll wrestle who I want to wrestle.

KP: No, you won't. You'll wrestle who the fans want you to wrestle. You'll take on anybody who insures you'll be cheered the most. Instead of perfecting your skills, challenging yourself, showing the world what wrestling is all about, you'll go after someone the fans hate. Soon, they'll be telling you how to wrestle. You won't do a maneuver that might offend their wimp sensibilities. You'll be a true blue scientific wrestler. And you won't be worth spit.

(Continued on page 62)

New NWA Champion Ric Flair: WHICH WAY WILL HE

ONE MAN ALONE. Once he steps through the ropes and into the ring there is not another person in the world who can help him. It's one-on-one, the most raw, agonizingly brutal contest of pure physical endurance known to man.

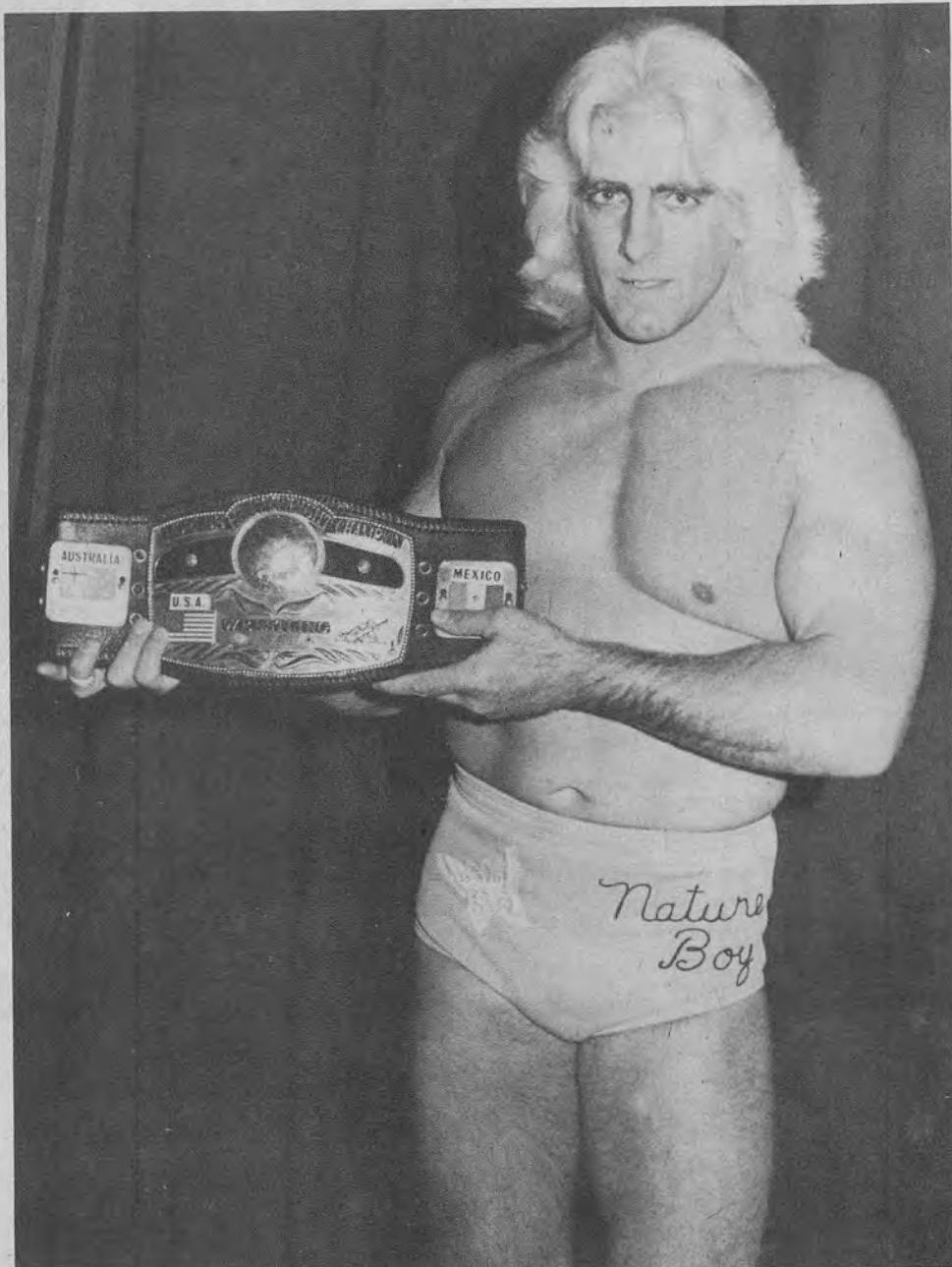
Standing alone before 10s of thousands of spectators, the adrenalin begins to flow. He looks into the eyes of his opponent and sees nothing but steely hatred looking back. He knows that he will have to give it his all if he has any hope of vanquishing that man in the other corner.

Beads of perspiration form on his brow. He's not sure if it is nervousness or the heat from the arena lights. He is, however, intensely aware of the salty drops of water which begin to creep their way into his eyes. Wiping aside this distraction, he prepares to wage war.

His eyes squint with intense concentration, forming dark slits out of which peer angry circles of rage. Veins in his forehead begin to swell, betraying the title-hungry anticipation coursing through his blood, his body, his very soul.

He is Ric Flair. He is about to challenge NWA champion Dusty Rhodes for the belt. Less than 24 minutes from the opening bell, he will succeed.

The place is Kansas City,



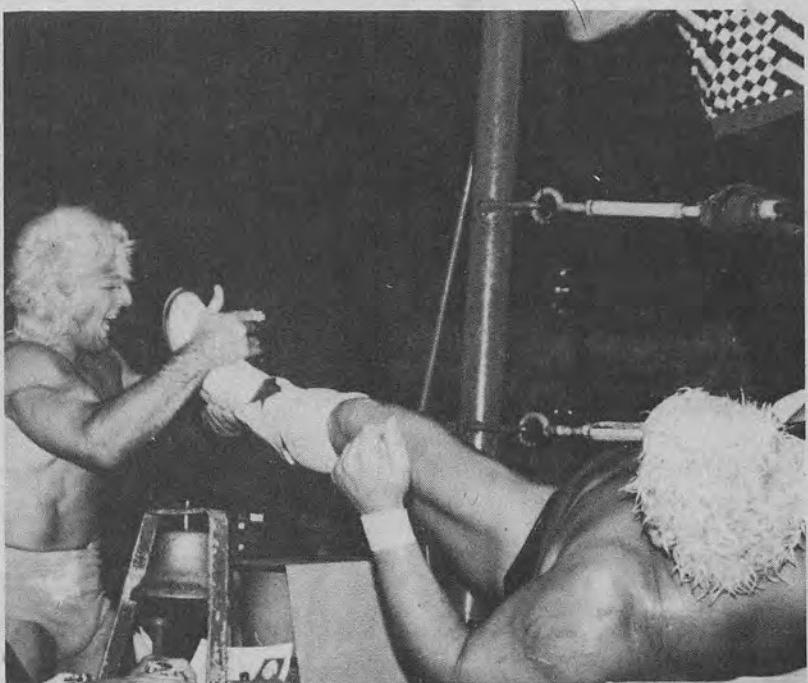
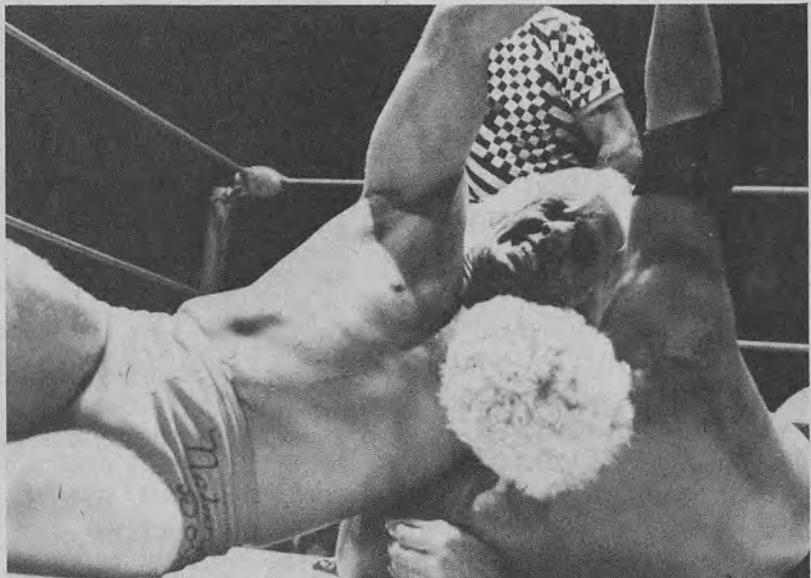
The years of training, pain, and determination finally paid off: Ric Flair has captured the NWA championship from Dusty Rhodes. Already, Flair's title reign has been distinguished by some intensely bloody defenses. Will this trend continue, or will Flair bring to the title other, as yet undiscovered qualities?

TAKE THE TITLE?

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



Ric Flair's game plan was to weaken Dusty Rhodes to the point where he could not defend his already injured left leg and then go right after the leg for the victory. Flair secures a solid rear chinlock (above). With an advantage in leverage, Ric tries to force Flair's shoulders to the canvas (top right). Rhodes is in a helpless position as Flair drives his left leg into the ringpost (right).



Missouri. The night before, defending champion Dusty Rhodes was in Florida. His left leg was then injured, though Dusty said "not seriously," by Bobby Jaggers and Assassin #1.

"I'm not worried about what happened last night," Dusty said

prior to his title match with Flair. "I don't think it will have any effect on my match tonight. Hell, you fall off a horse you gotta get right back up on him again, right? It doesn't matter what happened last night, I'm going out there and defend my title with all I've got."

Ric Flair was ready to give it all he had as well. Before the match, Flair had some things to say about his contest with Rhodes.

"I've been training for this night for more hours than anyone would care to count," Flair explained.

(Continued on page 48)

WWF Battle Royal Scandal

ONE BY ONE the participants were introduced to the standing room only crowd at New York's Madison Square Garden. The list read like a *Who's Who* of WWF wrestling: 20 of the best wrestlers in the area.

They were assembled for the third annual WWF Battle Royal, a showdown which promised a grand prize of \$10,000 to the one man who showed enough stamina and endurance to be the last man standing after all others had been eliminated. Elimination occurs by being thrown over the top rope.

It's a brutal contest simply due to the nature of a Battle Royal: 20 men all striving for the same goal. As a result, alliances between wrestlers are formed to oust other wrestlers... alliances which, under any other circumstances, might never occur. Strange oppositions are developed as well.

Two years ago Hussein Arab captured the prize. Last year, it was Larry Zbyszko. This year, the match-time favorites were Pedro Morales, Rick Martel, Tony Garea, Killer Khan, Mil Mascaras, and King Kong Mosca.

One by one they entered the ring. Finally, all 20 men were facing each other. Each man stood alone against 19 opponents. Each man was determined to bring home a \$10,000 reward.



Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito bow to the jeering crowd after eliminating Rick Martel and opting to split the \$10,000 Battle Royal prize rather than face off against each other.

The opening bell had barely sounded when immediate chaos and confusion broke out. It was nearly impossible to keep track of all that was happening in the ring.

King Kong Mosca squared off against Mil Mascaras as S.D. Jones faced Johnny Rodz. On the other side of the ring, Larry Sharpe and Roberto Soto were going at it, while Tony Garea and Rick Martel vented their collective rage upon Mr. Saito and Mr. Fuji.

As suddenly as they developed, these individual battles dissolved and new ones developed. Mr. Fuji concentrated upon S.D. Jones,

Yoshiaki Yatsu battled with Steve O, and Curt Hennig struggled against Killer Khan.

Bulldog Brower was the first to be thrown over the top rope, followed by Ron Shaw. Rodz took the offensive against Hennig, who was the third man to go over the top rope. Baron Mikel Scicluna was next.

As wrestlers were eliminated, new partnerships formed to throw other wrestlers out. Jones mustered a brutal offensive against King Kong Mosca, very nearly heaving him over the top rope. At the last second Mosca was saved by . . . of all people . . . Killer Khan. Scant seconds later, Mosca and Khan would be waging a war of their own, only to drag each other over the top rope and out of the ring and the match.

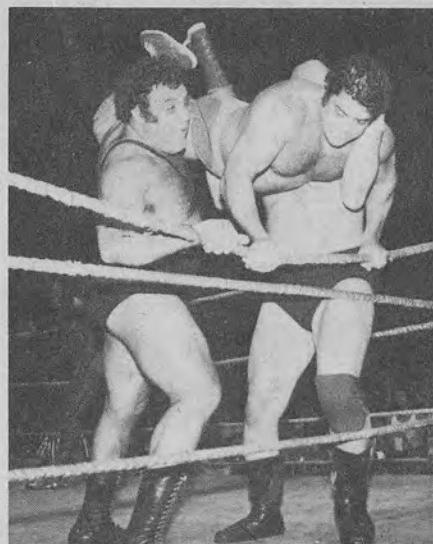
With six wrestlers left, Jones looked like a strong possibility to finish on top. He had only to finish off Garea, Martel, DeNucci, Fuji, and Saito. It would not be easy.

Garea as the first of the six to go, but Jones' hopes for a Battle Royal championship were shattered when he was inadvertently muscled over the ropes as DeNucci dropkicked Fuji into Jones. DeNucci himself was soon excluded, leaving Fuji, Saito, and Martel.

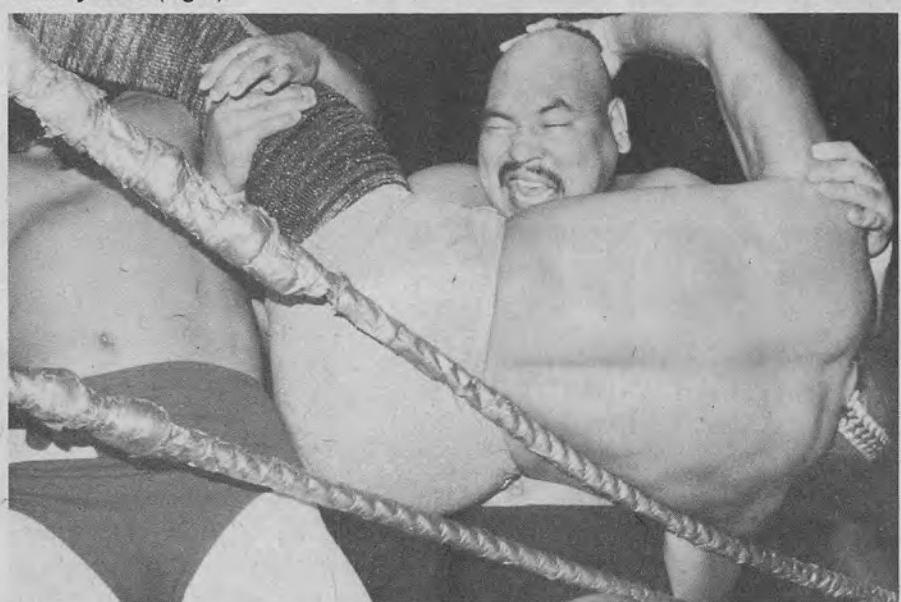
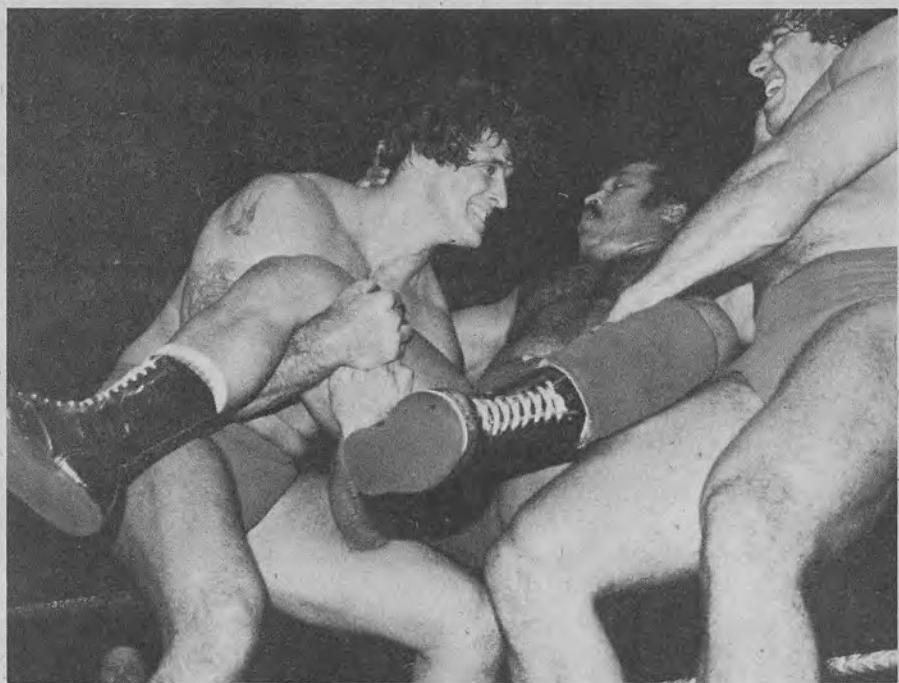
(Continued on page 46)

HOW FUJI AND SAITO STOLE \$10,000

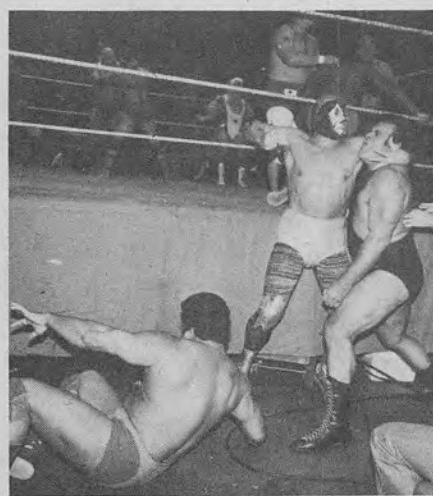
Twenty men. A prize of \$10,000. A battle to the finish. If you're thrown over the top rope, you're out. If you happen to be the strongest, the most cunning . . . the luckiest and last one to be left standing, you win. Sometimes, if you're very lucky, you've got help



King Kong Mosca and Killer Khan combine to dump Pedro Morales over the top rope (above). Tony Garea and Rick Martel are happy to get rid of the pesky Johnny Rodz (right).



Killer Khan lifts Mil Mascaras over the top rope (left). Martel eliminates a stunned Mosca (above).



Mascaras and Mosca wind up battling outside the ring (above). Martel and Fuji would meet again later (right).



HOTSEAT

HARLEY RACE: “IT WOULD BE A DANGEROUS MISTAKE TO WRITE ME OFF”

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED
BY MATT BROCK

A LONG WITH THE legendary Lou Thesz, he holds the record for NWA titles: six championships. He is currently involved in a reshaping of his entire approach to the sport of wrestling, the cornerstone of which is a brand new wrestling style. With this renewed enthusiasm, he hopes to capture an unprecedented seventh NWA championship. His opinions of the recent title change within the NWA from Dusty Rhodes to Ric Flair are raw, pointed, and brutally honest. He is Harley Race.

Q: Welcome to the “Hotseat,” Harley. I want to ask you about your drive for a seventh title acquisition, but first let’s talk about the biggest thing in the news right now: the fact

that Ric flair is now the NWA champion.

A: I’m glad you asked me about that, Matt. As you know, of

“
I want to say here and now, for everyone to read, that the National Wrestling Alliance is headed for some dark days.
”

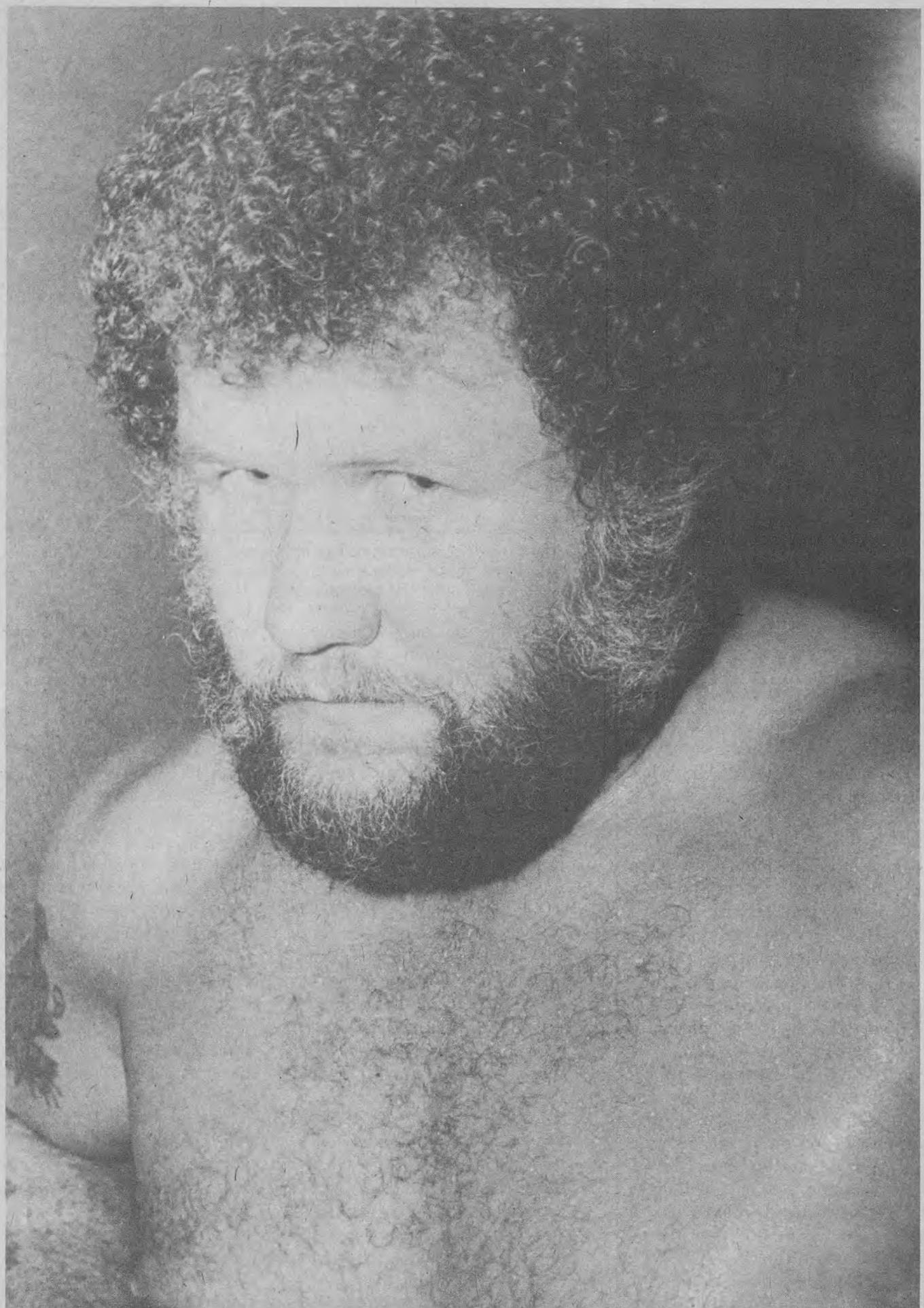
today who is more qualified to talk about the NWA championship than I am. I want to say here and now, for everyone to read, that the National Wrestling Alliance is headed for some dark days.

Q: By that you’re talking about the direction in which Ric Flair will probably take the championship.

A: Exactly. I have wrestled Ric Flair many times in the past. I have beaten Ric Flair many times in the past. I am both shocked and disappointed to find that he was able to win the championship. I will be very surprised if his title reign lasts more than just a few months.

Q: How does Dusty Rhodes fit

course, and so does everyone reading this, I’ve been the NWA champ for no less than six times. I don’t think that there’s anyone wrestling





"
I think Dusty is the pits. If a wimp like Flair can whip him for the title, then he simply isn't half the wrestler I used to think he was.
"



Though admitting he has had a great deal of trouble with the young Von Erich brothers (especially Kerry, above), Harley Race strongly believes that a major alteration in his wrestling style will bring him an unprecedented seventh NWA championship.

- into all of this do you think?
- A:** Well, Matt, I hate to say it, but my opinion of Dusty has dwindled, to say the least. Okay, so I won't be polite. I think Dusty is the pits. If a wimp like Ric Flair can whip him for the title, then he simply isn't half the wrestler I used to think he was. It's a shame, really. I guess he just can't wrestle anymore. I don't know what his problem is, but it didn't help him hold on to the belt, that's for sure.
- Q:** And you don't think Flair will hold onto the belt for very long?
- A:** Look, let me put it this way. If Ric Flair can become NWA champion, then I will have absolutely no problem getting there a seventh time, that's for damn sure.
- Q:** Okay, let's talk about that for a while. You're on your way to

a seventh title, and you sound pretty sure of yourself.

A: Hell yes. There's no reason in the world why I shouldn't be able to do it.

Q: Fine. But these Von Erich boys seem to be doing a good job of slowing down your progress.

A: Okay, Matt, now you listen to me. It's been a while since your childhood . . .

Q: Too long.

A: You better believe it. Anyway, I'm sure that even your memory can recall the story of the tortoise and the rabbit? Remember what happened when they had a race? The rabbit burned himself out from speed, while the tortoise slowly, but steadily, made his way to the finish line and won the race. I am the tortoise, and those Von Erich clowns are the rabbits. Okay, so maybe I'm advancing at a slow pace, but believe me, it's a steady one. I can see the progress every day in my training, in

my matches, in my everyday life.

Q: Everyday life?

A: Sure. Haven't you ever found yourself down at the docks at two in the morning having to face off against a couple of drunken longshoremen?

Q: Not recently, no.

A: Well, I have. Let me tell you, three against one is not easy. The time used to be when it would take me 10 or 15 minutes to finish off a three-some. Now, with my new training and altered tactics . . . not to mention my beautiful new physique . . . seven, eight minutes tops. Those boys will never mess with me again, either.

Q: As if they had any choice to begin with?

A: Aw, come on, Matt, the two of us go back a lot of years, you know me better than that.

Q: I thought I did.

A: Listen, do you think I actually have to go out and look for fights? I walk down the street

any day of the week, and it seems as if there is always some bum who wants to prove himself a big man. Maybe he's with his girlfriend and wants to impress her, or maybe he's just some wet-brained blowhard who thinks he's hot stuff. I mean really, there are times when you just have to teach these people a lesson.

Q: Well, maybe. I guess you're geared up to teach everybody a lesson when you make the play for number seven.

A: That's for sure. I've been in special training developing new methods and maneuvers that have never been seen in the ring before, that have never been performed by anybody who wrestles today.

Q: Care to give us any hints

about what kinds of things you're working on?

A: Not really. Listen, all my opponents are probably reading this interview hoping to find the slightest hint of how I'm planning to take a seventh championship. I'm not going to give it to them. All I will say about my special training for my next championship reign is that I am completely revamping my style. Anyone who has wrestled me in the past and thinks he knows what to expect when he meets me again in the ring is sadly mistaken. I would be a fool to continue using the same maneuvers year after year. By changing my style, none of my opponents will know what



Flair's initial NWA title defense was a bloody affair as Ric took on a determined veteran by the name of Harley Race. Though the match ended in a double disqualification, promoters are quickly trying to sign a rematch.



“

Anyone who has wrestled me in the past and thinks he knows what to expect when he meets me again in the ring is sadly mistaken.

”

to expect. And I'll put everyone on report right now, everyone who is going to meet me in the ring in the future: when you least expect it, expect it. I'll tell you, Matt, these people are very foolish when it comes to their attitudes about me. It would be a dangerous mistake to write me off. A lot of fools are making that very mistake.

Q: Profound words.

A: And true. These clowns will never know what hit them. Only later, when the stars clear from their brains, will they realize that it's Harley Race, seven-time champ of the NWA!

Q: That sounds nice.

A: And it's coming a lot sooner than anybody thinks.

Q: Harley, thanks for being with us on the "Hotseat."

A: My pleasure, Matt. □

NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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CINCINNATI, OH By Paul Roe



RICK STEAMBOAT
vs.
AUSTIN IDOL



Rick Steamboat squared off against Austin Idol in a violent match. Idol attacked Steamboat brutally, but Rick retaliated and ran him out of the ring. Idol finally grabbed the advantage, got "Steamer" down, and tried the figure-four, but failed. Ivan Koloff then interfered and Rick won by disqualification. Ivan and Idol savagely attacked Steamboat, but Jake Roberts came to the rescue.

OTHER BOUTS: Roddy Piper won over Jay Youngblood . . . Leroy Brown and Sweet Ebony Diamond won by disqualification over Ole Anderson and Ivan Koloff.

JACKSON, MI By Mike Williams



ANDRE THE GIANT
vs.
SUPER DESTROYER



Before a packed house at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, Andre the Giant took the measure of the Super Destroyer. He did so in spite of great interference from Destroyer's manager, Frank Dusek. It looked like Super Destroyer would win well into the match, but not this night! Andre finally ended the contest with a devastating brain-buster.

OTHER BOUTS: Junkyard Dog and Dick Murdoch defeated The Samoans . . . The Grappler cheated a win from Ted DiBiase . . . Paul Orndorff creamed Jake Roberts.

TEMPLE, TX By Bob Miller



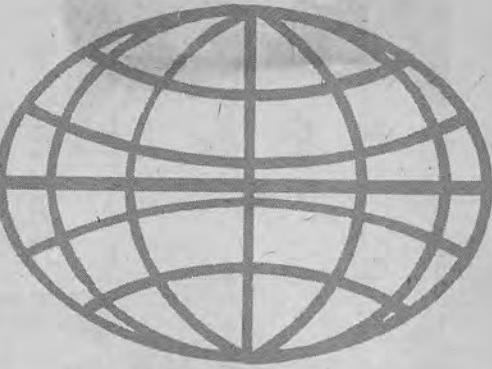
DICK SLATER
vs.
BOB DUNCUM



The main event at the Sheriff's Posse Arena was for the Southwest title. Champion Dick Slater was using every dirty trick in the book, then Duncum came up with a few of his own. The end of the match came when Slater kicked Duncum into the referee, knocking him out for some time. Slater pulled an object out of his trunks and knocked Duncum out for the win. He was quickly disqualified when Scott Casey told the referee what had happened. Duncum won the match, but not the title.

OTHER BOUTS: Scott Casey and Terry Allen over Tank Patton and Kelly Kiniski.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



GREENSBORO, NC

By Arthur McDonnel



RICK STEAMBOAT
vs.
IVAN KOLOFF

BRIDGEPORT, CT

By Pat Colligan



BOB BACKLUND
vs.
KILLER KHAN

E. RUTHERFORD, NJ

By Tim Daudelin



BRUNO SAMMARTINO
vs.
GEORGE STEELE



It was a tense evening here in Greensboro as Rick Steamboat made a bid for the Mid-Atlantic title, held by the despicable and much-hated Ivan Koloff. As the match began, the crowd was clearly on the side of Steamboat, cheering with his every move against Koloff, and gasping when the wily Russian seemed to take the upper hand. For nearly 20 minutes the match continued in a see-saw battle from which no clear leader was apparent. Suddenly, Rick grabbed Koloff, there was a flash of action, and if you blinked you missed it: Koloff was pinned and Rick Steamboat was declared the new Mid-Atlantic champion.



Defending WWF champion Bob Backlund started off quickly against Killer Khan, seemingly taking command of the match. In desperation, Khan started using his illegal treacherous maneuvers, and that resulted in Bob being caught in a sleeperhold. However, Bob proved his championship mettle by somehow breaking free and coming back even stronger. The match spilled out of the ring and arena security guards were needed to save Khan as Bob rammed the challenger's head into a concrete wall. When the match returned to the ring, Backlund emerged victorious.



The Brendan Byrne Arena was the site of Bruno Sammartino's farewell to wrestling in the United States. Bruno's opponent was George "The Animal" Steele and the Living Legend's courage was never more evident. After a wild melee that had chairs and tables flying through the air, Bruno conquered his crazed foe.

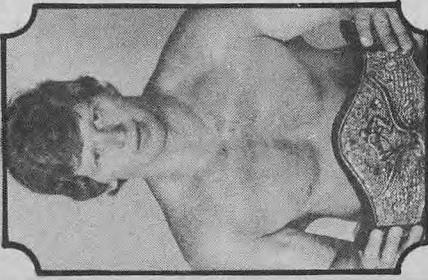
OTHER BOUTS: Andre the Giant defeated King Kong Mosca . . . Magnificent Muraco was disqualified against Mil Mascaras . . . Tony Atlas beat The Executioner.

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

TOP TWELVE

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wrestling Federation



Champion:
BOB BACKLUND

American Wrestling Association



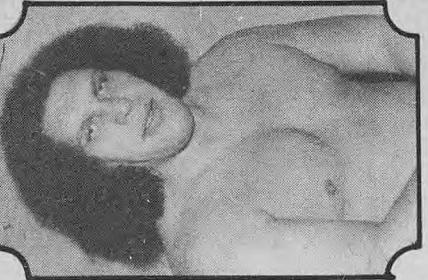
Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL

National Wrestling Alliance



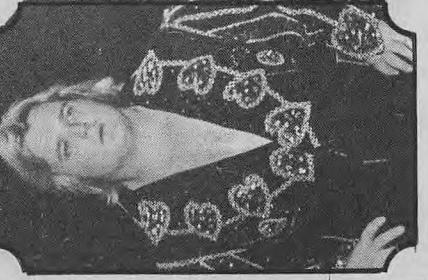
Champion:
RIC FLAIR

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—**ANDRE THE GIANT**

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—**GREG VALENTINE**

Tag Teams



1—**THE ANDERSON BROTHERS**

2—**RODDY PIPER**

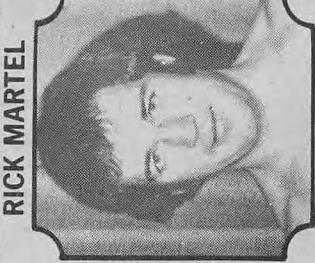
2—**DUSTY RHODES**

1—**CRUSHER**

1—**GREG VALENTINE**



2—TONY GAREA &
RICK MARTEL

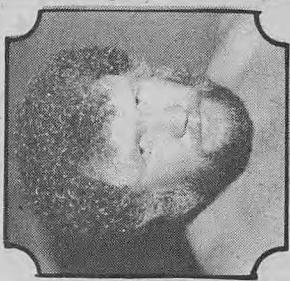


3—GREG GAGNE &
JIM BRUNZELL

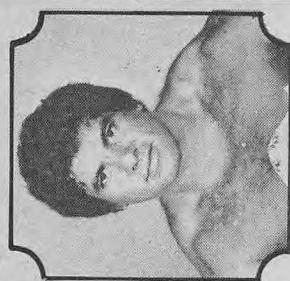
4—KIWIS
5—JIMMY SNUKA &
TERRY GORDY
6—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
& CHRIS MARKOFF
7—MR. FUJI &
MR. SAITO
8—THE SAMOANS
9—GINO HERNANDEZ
& TULLY BLANCHARD
10—MASSA FUCHI &
MR. ONEIDA



3—JIMMY SNUKA



4—HARLEY RACE



5—MAGNIFICENT
MURACO



3—MIL MASCARAS



4—BOB BACKLUND

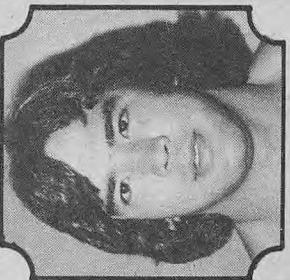


5—TOMMY RICH

6—KEN PATERA
7—BOBBY JAGGERS
8—KILLER KHAN
9—PAUL ORNDORFF
10—TOR KAMATA



2—HULK HOGAN



3—RICK STEAMBOAT



4—HARLEY RACE

5—WAHOO McDANIEL
6—TONY ATLAS
7—MR. WRESTLING II
8—RICK STEAMBOAT
9—TITO SANTANA
10—JERRY BRISCO



5—SHEIK ADNAN AL-
KAISSIE



6—KEN PATERA



7—BARON VON
RASCHKE

8—GINO
HERNANDEZ
9—GREG GAGNE
10—JIM BRUNZELL



5—PEDRO MORALES



6—PAT PATTERSON



7—TONY ATLAS

8—KING KONG
MOSCA
9—RICK MARTEL
10—ROBERTO SOTO

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PEPPER GOMEZ

Pinups are listed under each issue.

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WWF Battle Royal

(Continued from Page 37)



Rick Martel is in the unenviable position of being left in the ring with Saito and Fuji (above). Martel skillfully evaded the pair for a couple of minutes, but is finally pushed by Fuji toward Saito (below), who flings him over the top rope (opposite top).





It was clearly a two-on-one combination as the Japanese tag team partners attempted to corner one half of the WWF championship tag team. Martel was speeding through the ring like a panther, escaping Fuji and Saito at every turn. Suddenly, Martel exploded with a stunning series of flying dropkicks, but it was to no avail. One kick too many, and the team of Fuji and Saito had Martel subdued and out of the ring.

Before anyone realized what had happened, Fuji and Saito were bowing to each other . . . a draw? The crowd was most definitely NOT pleased. The rules of a Battle Royal state that the *one man left at the end* wins the prize. Fans from ringside to the rafters cried for a faceoff, but the inscrutable pair would have none of it, instead agreeing to split the \$10,000 equally.

"It's a ripoff!" declared Stu Needlebaum, a ringside observer of the match. "One man, that's what the rules say! These two guys stole the money, plain and simple.



A joyous locker room scene as Captain Lou Albano divvies the prize money.

Bah! I'm disgusted!"

Back in the dressing room, however, Captain Lou Albano, the manager of Saito and Fuji, was anything but disgusted. The smile on his face was broad as he presented \$10,000 to his tag team of Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito.

"Battle Royal champions

today," cried the Captain, "and tag team champions tomorrow. Just wait!"

As Albano spoke these words, Fuji and Saito also smiled. They're ready to wear the belts, and they know that tomorrow may come sooner than Tony Garea and Rick Martel think. □

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Ric Flair

(Continued from Page 35)



Rhodes prevents Flair's aerial attack from the turnbuckles by grabbing his challenger (above left) and executing a suplex (above right). Dusty's injured leg cannot support the weight, however, and he tumbles to the canvas with Flair in pinning position. Lou Thesz makes the count (below).



"I'm ready for Rhodes . . . and I don't think he's quite ready for me."

When they came out of their corners towards each other, both men were ready.

For about 15 minutes, the match was dead even. Neither wrestler took a clear advantage, and it was still anybody's match.

At precisely 15:07, Flair leveled a shot at Dusty's left leg, severely limiting Dusty from what he might normally be able to do had that very leg not been hurt the night before.

For seven minutes, Flair maintained a distinct advantage over Rhodes. At 22:03, Dusty was on the mat, helpless and unable to

muster even the most rudimentary defense.

Flair mounted the cornerpost, prepared to deliver the fatal blow to Dusty and his championship. In an instant, Dusty rose to his feet preparing to suplex Ric to the mat. As Rhodes held Flair, the champion's left leg, wounded twice in as many days, began to buckle from the weight of Flair. Dusty collapsed, Flair on top of him, and fell flat to the canvas.

Three seconds later it was official: Ric Flair was declared the new champion of the National Wrestling Alliance. Official time of the match: 23 minutes, 43 seconds.

"I feel great," hollered Ric after

his victory. "The first thing I'm going to do is go out and buy a case of champagne! Then I'm going to get all my friends together, drink the case, and then hit every night spot in town! Then I'm going to start celebrating!"

What happens to the title now that Flair is in control? In which direction will the NWA be headed in the months to come?

"I can't rightly predict," Flair said, "but one thing is for sure: it won't be dull. Stick around a while, fans, because I sure intend to! I'm going to hold on to this championship for some time yet, you'd better believe that."

The new champion proudly displays the NWA belt.



So far, Flair has defended his title with a ferocious anger evident in only the most bloody street brawls. His first title defense against Harley Race turned into a veritable bloodbath, and matches immediately following that one have fallen into the same pattern.

If early matches are any indication, the NWA championship is in for some bloody months as Ric Flair commands the helm.

"I'm the champion," howled Flair, "and I'm going to stay the champion. Dusty Rhodes realizes that now, and so will anyone else who tries to stand in my way. If blood is what it takes to defend the title, then blood it's going to be."

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 6)



Reader Michael F.P. Luberti Jr. feels Bob Backlund has abandoned the scientific style that he utilized throughout the early part of his career. The WWF fans can no longer say they have a scientific champion, Luberti writes.

CHANGING STYLE

A wrestler clad in red tights and warmup jacket entered the ring. Before the bell, the grappler arrogantly tossed the referee aside to attack his opponent. The bell still having not yet rung, the man in red began to pummel his opponent before he could get his ring jacket off. Finally, the man in red tossed his opponent out of the ring and into the steel barrier that protects the fans at ringside.

The "man in red" described in the above disgusting account was not Harley Race, Killer Khan, or even George Steele. It

was WWF champion Bob Backlund, who, before a sellout crowd at the Philadelphia Spectrum, behaved in this manner so unbecoming a champion. In the past year, Bob seems to have turned from the pure scientific style that has won him the admiration of so many fans to what Race calls "scientific brawling." Punches, kicks to the midsection, and heels to the face of prone opponents are now a regular part of Backlund's repertoire. Frankly, watching Backlund's last few matches have brought back memories of watching

Larry Zbyszko brutalize many an opponent during his spree in the WWF.

All I can say is this: Backlund, turn back to scientific wrestling. Let the WWF fans who have been behind you since that night three years ago when you became our champion be proud that this federation has the only true scientific champion.

MICHAEL F.P. LUBERTI JR.
Allentown, PA



Nick Bockwinkel cockily secures his belt after a title defense. Reader Tim Wargo has no respect for the AWA champion.

UNDESERVING CHAMPION

I must say I feel very sorry for the AWA fans. The current "champion," Nick Bockwinkel, was handed the belt on a silver platter instead of earning it. He's merely a paper champion. If they should hand the belt to anyone, it should have been a John Studd or a Crusher Blackwell, two real men, not a mouse like Bockwinkel.

A few words on Bockwinkel, the man (?). I'd hate to be his tag team partner. He would faint every time I'd tag him out of total terror. Proof of his cowardice is repeated self-disqualifications to retain his belt, a real wimp's way out. Men like Crusher Blackwell and John Studd would defend the belt with honor.

TIM WARGO
Roslyn, PA □

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 10)

the Meadowlands to witness the inauguration of professional wrestling there.

Now, I must explain that it wasn't so bad finding Apter's apartment building. Actually, the slide from reality into the twilight zone wasn't difficult at all. But the ensuing adjustment back to the real world came with no little difficulty.

To make a short story swift, as my sister the oil baroness is wont to say, one is not supposed to get to



As part of the fabulous card in the Meadowlands, Magnificent Muraco defended his Intercontinental title against Mil Mascaras.

New Jersey's Meadowlands from southwestern Long Island via Harlem and the Apollo Theater. Guess how we got there. Exactly.

That wouldn't even have been so bad, except that Apter kept hollering at me to stop the car so he could run into the nearest candy store and score himself another fix for his M&M habit. When that chocolate monkey with the colored candy shell grips you in the jugular, you'd better relent. To see Apter in the throes of a sugar withdrawal fit is a sorry sight, indeed.

Despite it all, we made it to the Meadowlands well in advance of the scheduled 8 p.m. starting time for the evening's card. And what a

lineup: Andre the Giant vs. King Kong Mosca, Magnificent Muraco in an Intercontinental championship title defense against Mil Mascaras, Tony Garea and Rick Martel defending their WWF belts against Bulldog Brower and Larry Sharpe, and of course Bruno Sammartino bidding farewell to 22 years of professional wrestling by battling George "The Animal" Steele.

The sporting press from around the world assembled to help christen the Brendan Byrne Meadowlands Arena. Journalists from Tokyo as well as the States all agreed: this arena is a fine addition to the wrestling circuit on the eastern seaboard.

Returning home, Apter proved once again to be a man with a low threshold of willpower. With his M&M monkey satiated, he gave in to the struggle against the pancake and bacon obsession. In a disgusting display of gustatorial overkill, Apter devoured his meal like a starving hawk who finally ensnared its prey. Dusty Rhodes would have been proud.

As I drove home after depositing a bloated Bill Apter to his apartment, I thought back at what the evening meant. In one sense it was the end of an era: Bruno had waved a fond farewell to his fans, some of whom had been there in 1959 and were now bringing their children along to see the Living Legend in action.

In another sense, it was the dawning of a new era: the inception of wrestling at the Meadowlands. It was the beginning of a new chapter in the long and revered history of the squared circle.

As I pointed the nose of the Green Giant eastward along the Long Island Expressway, I didn't know whether to smile or be sad. Somehow, I succeeded in doing both. □

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PWI/May 80

Color Poster: Mil Mascaras



PWI/Dec 80

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PWI/Jan 81

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PWI/Feb 81

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PWI/Apr 81

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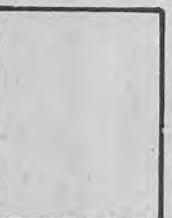
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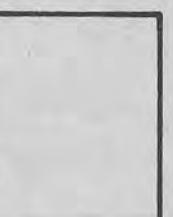
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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 12)

come out and ask for it. His close relationship with the fans and his inscrutable wrestling style are the earmarks of his career. He has never had to build his own ego.

But suddenly this drastic change. The way he was talking, how long before he would demand a match against a Tommy Rich or a Bruno Sammartino Jr.? The mere thought was painful. The wrestling community watched II in stunned silence, hoping, praying that he was just having a few bad days and that he would return back to normal.



Mr. Wrestling II shows a scowl behind his cowl, but his apparent anger is gone. II was just testing his influence over the young Georgia wrestlers.

"Everything went exactly as I planned," II said with a wry grin. "I'm sorry I put such a scare into so many people, but I had to. Believe me, if I didn't think it was necessary, I wouldn't have gone to such extremes."

The fact is that II never considered turning bad. What he did, he did for the young scientific wrestlers in the Georgia area, and ultimately the fans. "For years now," he explained, "I've been in a position of influence for every scientific wrestler that has come through the area. And it's a role I

thoroughly enjoy. But until recently, I didn't realize the awesome responsibility that went along with that influence.

"Often I would watch a Ted DiBiase or a Kevin Von Erich and I would see them use one of my moves. Of course I was flattered, but what if I were a rulebreaker? Would Ted or Kevin use a foreign object if I used a foreign object? That is what I had to find out. I had to know how far I could lead these young men."

Not that Wrestling II was worried about what would happen to his followers if he were to ever turn to rule-breaking: at this point of his career, he knows in his own mind that there is absolutely no chance of that. "No," II said, "it goes a lot deeper than whether or not somebody wrestles by the rules. In order for these young guys to survive in wrestling—and in life—they must be their own leader. They have to be able to set their own courses in life and stick to them. Hero worship is flattering, but it can be very dangerous."

So II pulled off his charade, scared the living daylights out of an awful lot of people (myself included), and found out what he had to know. "Each and every one of them reacted just perfectly," he said, a wide grin stretching his mask. They were respectful enough not to jump down my throat, yet they were mature enough not to follow me blindly."

All Mr. Wrestling II wants from his youthful followers is their loyalty. Not in the sense of doing everything he does, but just as any friend would want loyalty from another friend.

And I'm very happy to note that the custodian just hauled my original column off to its final resting place. □

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BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 14)



You hate to see a guy get badly hurt in wrestling, but for what Bruno did to Larry Zbyszko, he deserved far worse than a 12-stitch wound in the head. I, for one, am not sorry to see him go.

corrupt, inept, pedestrian and amoral men who ever earned a living in professional sports, Sammartino pretended to be a beacon of honesty. His hypocritical blatherings were an insult to the very concept of integrity.

Early in his notorious career, Sammartino realized fans don't watch matches with their heads. Rather, they let emotions change the facts to fit their wishful thinking. Sammartino could cheat, lie, and use the dirtiest tactics. It didn't matter to his fans; they believed a man who promised so faithfully to be good just had to be good. Sammartino laughed all the way to the bank.

A few years ago, wrestling breathed a sigh of relief when it appeared Sammartino would have to quit. A combination of Stan

Hansen's lariat and his own clumsiness resulted in Sammartino suffering a broken neck. It was assumed that the most ridiculous career in wrestling history would finally come to a conclusion. Instead, Sammartino paid the right people and insured himself a victory in his return match.

Probably, Sammartino would've retired soon after except for the emergence of Bob Backlund. Now, I've never been a fan of Backlund's, but I've never denied he has the fans in his corner. Sammartino saw them as his fans turning to a new champion. His ego couldn't take that. In spite of the fact that even he could no longer escape the fact his abilities were abysmal, he couldn't leave the sport. He refused to

surrender the spotlight to another. These last years would have been pathetic if they weren't so distasteful. Even Sammartino's enemies assumed he had more class than that.

I suppose he feels able to retire now that his son has invaded the wrestling ranks. You have to admire a kid who has the gall to call himself Bruno Sammartino Jr. and still claims to want to make it on his own. Certainly, he has the two-faced blithering of his father down pat. It won't be hard to exceed his father's athletic ability. Now, if he can only control commissioners and referees like his old man, the punk has a future. It'll be a disgraceful future, but a future nonetheless. He can follow in his old man's mudprints.

It's a pity that there's a chance Sammartino Sr. won't stick to his promise to stay away from wrestling. The sport is better off without him, but the fans might not see it that way. Instead, they'll beg this disgrace to professional athletics to make a comeback. Unable to resist the money and their ignorant adoration, Sammartino will make another comeback. Every time he steps into the ring, he'll prove the stupidity of the cheering fans.

This is not the first column I've written praising Sammartino's decision to retire. Each time he says he'll leave the ring, I applaud his decision. This time, I hope he keeps his word. □

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INSIDER

(Continued from Page 18)

might even go all the way. Wrestling may never be the same.

RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: The Masked Grappler is really the hefty rock singer Meat Loaf! He has carefully juggled two careers and has been successful in hiding his true identity.

FACT: We made dozens of phone calls, and *not one* of our dependable sources could say that they have seen Masked Grappler and Meat Loaf together or in the same room! Still, we doubt the validity of this rumor. Though the physical dimensions of the singer and the wrestler are similar, a boyhood friend of Grappler who sang in grammar school chorus with him insists the masked man is and will always be a baritone. Meat Loaf is a tenor.

RUMOR: NWA champion Ric Flair has accepted a \$100,000 offer to endorse Flair marking pens. The TV commercial that

you will see on your tubes within the next month features Flair drawing beautiful self-portraits on a wrestling canvas.

FACT: Bulldung. This is all bulldung! Flair obviously planted this story, figuring he might be able to cash in quickly on his current championship status. Sorry, Ric, no one believes you. I guess you don't have a "flair" for planting believable rumors.

INJURY REPORT

In an amazing comeback, RICK STEAMBOAT quickly recovered from a leg injury he



Rick Steamboat quickly recovered from a leg injury and captured the Mid-Atlantic title.



Is it true that Ric Flair will be seen on television selling Flair pens? Absolutely not.

sustained during the U.S. Title tournament (courtesy of a double-team by Roddy Piper and Abdullah the Butcher) and won the Mid-Atlantic title two weeks later.

BLACKJACK MULLIGAN'S arm, injured in Knoxville, is now 100 percent again. Both JOHN STUDD and BRUISER BRODY take "credit" for injuring Mulligan.

That's it for now. Catch you later. □

SPORTS REVIEW Wrestling

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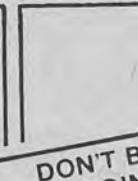
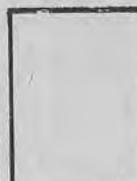
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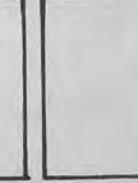
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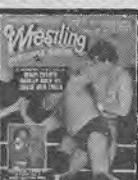
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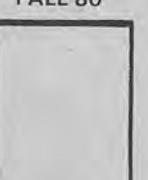
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HH: You don't know what you're talking about. It just galls you that I'm doing what I want and not what you want. Well, nobody ever tells Hulk Hogan what to do—not you, not the fans, not the commissioners, not anybody.

KP: You're kidding yourself and you're too stupid to know it. Look, I've been there. Remember, I started out in the AWA as the fans' fair-haired boy. I know what it's like to need to hear the fans cheer. It eats up your will. You want to do something but stop because the fans might not like it. You want to wrestle someone but don't because the fans don't like it. And you don't go after the championship unless the fans want it. When I think of the times I didn't



Though his wrestling style hasn't changed, Hulk Hogan is now being cheered in the AWA. And Ken Patera doesn't like it.

challenge Verne Gagne because I was afraid to offend the fans. I could puke.

HH: Well, that won't happen to me.

KP: It already has. What in hell are you doing helping a bozo like Rheingans?

HH: He's a tough kid who has the chance to be great.

KP: He's a wimp with a chance to be a fan favorite. He's beneath you. But you know the fans will cheer if he's around you. That's why you saved his worthless butt, that's why you went after Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, and that's why you've started feuding with Crusher Blackwell.

HH: You're full of it.

KP: You know I'm right. Why did you help Rheingans?

HH: I felt sorry for the kid.

KP: Why?

HH: He had a couple of tough breaks. He was going to be on the Olympic wrestling team, but we boycotted the Olympics.

KP: Makes me want to cry. I can see why you turned on everything you once believed in. We must make the world safe for little Brad.

HH: Shut up.

KP: What a waste. They're going to make you into a shell of your former self. It's a pity. What's saddest of all is that you'll go to your doom with a big smile on your face. Applause addiction is the worst addiction of all.

HH: I said shut up.

KP: I've had my say. Too bad it was wasted. I guess I'll have to find some other way to make you listen to reason. □

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House Of Humperdink

(Continued from Page 26)

champions of Kansas City, St. Louis, and all of Missouri: Ten-Gu you've already met. Beside him, Jim Dillon, a veteran of the ring wars. Next in line is Mean Gene Lewis, the first inhabitant of the new house. The Monk is a crazed animal, thrown out of his monastery for crippling no less than 11 other monks. And Chang



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I gasped for air. "You're mad!"

I cried.

"Mad? Mad you say?" Humperdink's eyes were red with rage. "Yes, some people think I'm mad... well, they've called many brilliant men mad! Just wait, just you wait! Hahahaha!"

I peered out of the corner of my eye. I was far enough from the five wrestlers and the madman manager and close enough to the exit to make a break for it. I did.

"Tell them, tell the world of my plans! They can't stop me!" Sir

Ten-Gu digs his fingers into
Billy Howard's esophagus.



Oliver's crazed voice cried out after me.

I ran for my car without looking back. I was relieved, because my engine started on the first try. I shot away from that house faster than a bat out of hell... not a bad analogy, for it seemed to me to be very close to hell in that house.

The hellish house of Humperdink. I shuddered thinking about it. I have a hunch that when they start into action, it will make Oliver's Florida operation look like a nursery school. □

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Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! **NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER** that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen as you will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want, or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—not is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make

Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their "bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need is to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 48. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER...

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
- Personal Protection!
- Telepathy Made Easy!
- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
- Controlling a Conversation!
- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Witchcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
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- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

MRS. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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